CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Congress govt marks 3 years in power with Tumakuru event

CM accuses BJP of divisive politics, price rise and failed national promises

TUMAKURU

Launching a sharp political offensive at the Congress government's third anniversary convention in Tumakuru, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accused the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of promoting divisive politics, failing to control inflation and neglecting the common people.

The Chief Minister alleged that the BJP was creating divisions between Hindus and Muslims to gain political power and said the Congress government in Karnataka believed in governance that ensured peace and social harmony. His remarks came days after PM Modi, during his Bengaluru visit, criticised the State Government and the Congress administration.

Referring to rising fuel prices and unemployment, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Centre was directly responsible for inflation and economic distress. He also attacked the BJP over the NEET examination paper leak controversy, alleging that the Union Government ignored Karnataka's CET model and failed students across the country.

"The promises of 'Ache Din', ₹15 lakh from black money and two crore jobs annually remain unfulfilled," he said, while claiming that only a few corporate groups benefited during the Modi government's tenure.

"The BJP is dividing society and the country. We believe in governance that ensures peace."
—Siddaramaiah, CM

Highlighting the Congress government's achievements, the Chief Minister said over 250 of the 592 promises made in the 2023 Assembly manifesto had already been fulfilled. He stated that the five guarantee schemes were implemented within the first year and nearly ₹1.40 lakh crore had been spent on welfare measures without discrimination based on caste or religion.

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar described Karnataka's guarantee schemes as a model being replicated across the country to address rising living costs.

Tumakuru may become 'Bengaluru North'

Home Minister G. Parameshwara urged the State Government to consider branding Tumakuru as "Bengaluru North", citing its growing connectivity and proximity to the capital city. Referring to the renaming of Ramanagar district as Bengaluru South, he said Tumakuru too could be integrated into Bengaluru's expanding metropolitan identity, especially with proposed Metro rail connectivity plans.

K'taka bus strike withdrawn after HC intervention

Relief for lakhs of commuters as KSRTC and BMTC services resume normally Wednesday.

BENGALURU

Commuters across Karnataka received major relief after transport employees withdrew the statewide bus strike scheduled for May 20 following intervention by the Karnataka High Court. With the agitation called off, services operated by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and its allied divisions will function normally across the State on Wednesday.

The decision was announced by the KSRTC Joint Action Committee after the High Court directed transport unions to suspend the strike and instructed the State Government to hold discussions with employee representatives at the earliest.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation employees had planned the strike over pending labour-related demands, raising concerns among lakhs of daily commuters, students and office-goers dependent on public transport services.

- **Strike date proposed:** May 20
- **Strike status:** Withdrawn
- **Services operating normally:** KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, KKRTC
- **Reason for withdrawal:** Karnataka High Court intervention
- **Affected commuters:** Lakhs across Karnataka

Joint Action Committee Convener Jayadevaraje Urs confirmed that the strike was being withdrawn in compliance with the court's directions. Employee representatives said unions had already informed the government about the proposed agitation before the issue reached court through a Public Interest Litigation.

During the hearing, the High Court reportedly observed that discussions should be initiated immediately by either the Chief Minister or the Transport Minister within a stipulated timeframe.

Joint Action Committee General Secretary Vijay Bhaskar said transport workers were forced to announce the strike after repeated appeals to the government allegedly went unanswered. He added that employees had the democratic right to protest and expressed hope that the court-directed talks would address their grievances.

KSDL receives Zepto Supply Chain Excellence Award

BENGALURU

State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) has received the prestigious "Supply Chain Excellence Award" from Zepto in the quick commerce segment for the successful marketing of its flagship Mysore Sandal Soap.

Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil congratulated KSDL officials and staff for the achievement.

Patil said KSDL's e-commerce business has grown from ₹28 crore to ₹122 crore in the last three years due to market expansion initiatives.

He added that Mysore Sandal Soap sales on quick commerce platforms increased from ₹10 lakh per month two years ago to nearly ₹2 crore monthly now.

The Minister attributed the success to digital marketing, improved supply chain systems, production reforms and partnerships with quick commerce platforms like Zepto.

PM says shared democratic values make India, Nordics natural partners

OSLO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said shared democratic values, rule of law and commitment to multilateralism make India and the Nordic nations "natural partners" as he participated in the third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo during his ongoing five-nation foreign tour.

"Democracy, rule of law and commitment to multilateralism make India and the Nordic countries natural partners."
— PM Narendra Modi

Addressing a joint press interaction alongside leaders of Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden, Modi said the summit reflected the growing depth of India's partnership with the Nordic region. Discussions focused on sustainability, clean energy, innovation, emerging technologies and economic cooperation.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said democracies must deepen cooperation in an increasingly uncertain global environment. He said leaders discussed geopolitical challenges, international law, global security and efforts towards achieving peace in Ukraine and stability in West Asia.

On the sidelines of the summit, Modi held bilateral meetings with leaders of Finland, Denmark and Iceland. During talks with Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, both sides explored cooperation in artificial intelligence, 6G technology, education and nuclear energy.

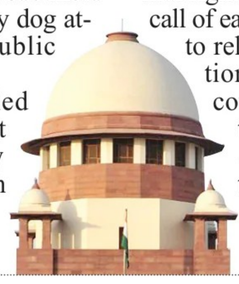
SC allows euthanasia of rabid, dangerous stray dogs

NEW DELHI

In a significant ruling on the growing stray dog menace, the Supreme Court on Tuesday permitted authorities to carry out euthanasia of rabid and demonstrably dangerous stray dogs in appropriate cases to protect human life and public safety.

A Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N. V. Anjaria passed the order while hearing a suo motu case concerning stray dog attacks and rising public safety concerns.

The court clarified that euthanasia must be conducted strictly in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, and other statutory protocols, following assessment by qualified veterinary experts.



The Bench observed that in areas witnessing frequent dog bite incidents and aggressive canine attacks, authorities could take legally permissible measures, including euthanasia of rabid, incurably ill or dangerous dogs.

Rejecting pleas filed by animal rights activists seeking recall of earlier directions related to relocation and sterilisation of stray dogs, the court emphasised that the right to live with dignity also includes the right of citizens to move freely without fear of dog attacks.

GP Leaves CM Decision to Congress High Command

TUMAKURU

Fresh speculation over a possible leadership change in Karnataka Congress resurfaced on Tuesday after senior MLA K. N. Rajanna openly backed Home Minister G. Parameshwara as a potential Chief Ministerial candidate if the party decides on a transition in leadership.

Responding to Rajanna's remarks, Mr. Parameshwara said any decision regarding the Chief Minister's post rests entirely with the Congress "high command".

"Thank you Rajanna, he is my classmate and speaks on my behalf. But everyone knows the matter will be decided by the high command," Mr. Parameshwara told reporters in Tumakuru.

Rajanna, while reaffirming his support for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said he would prefer Parameshwara to lead the State if the Congress leadership opts for a change.

The Congress MLA recalled Parameshwara's long tenure as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president and said he could have become Chief Minister in 2013 had he won the Assembly election then.

In a pointed political remark, Rajanna said power was not anyone's "personal property" and ultimately belonged to the people. He added that any final decision taken by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the party leadership would be implemented.

The comments came amid continuing discussions within the Karnataka Congress over power-sharing arrangements as the Siddaramaiah-led government completes three years in office.

Major pharmacy chains, Jan Aushadhi stores to remain open today

New Delhi: All major pharmacy chains, hospital-based medical stores, Jan Aushadhi Kendras and AMRIT pharmacy outlets across the country will remain operational on May 20 despite the nationwide shutdown call given by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists against e-pharmacies.Several State-level pharmacy associations have also opted out of the proposed strike, citing public interest and the need to ensure uninterrupted access to medicines.

Injured elephant Marthanda dies after clash at Dubare camp

DUBARE

After a tourist from Tamil Nadu was killed during a violent clash between two elephants at the Dubare Elephant Camp in Kodagu, injured elephant Marthanda died on Tuesday while undergoing treatment, officials said.

The Dubare camp has been closed until further orders following the tragic incident that shocked tourists, forest staff and local residents.

Marthanda had suffered serious injuries to the stomach, ears and other body parts during the fight with fellow elephant Kanjan on Monday. Veterinarians and forest staff attempted treatment at the camp, but the elephant succumbed to its injuries.

Mahouts and kavadis at the camp were seen grieving after Marthanda's death, with one mahout reportedly collapsing in distress. Forest officials said Kanjan had since been isolated from other elephants and remained calm.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Abhishek described the incident as an accidental tragedy and said a preliminary report would be submitted to the government.

Marthanda, popularly known as the "Akki Kalla" or "Rice Thief" of Sakleshpur in Hassan district, had once been notorious for raiding shops and settlements for rice. Captured twice by the Forest Department, the elephant was later trained at Dubare and had become one of the camp's most gentle and obedient elephants.

Karnataka tightens elephant camp safety norms

Following the tragic incident at the Dubare Elephant Camp, the Karnataka government has announced stricter safety regulations for visitors at captive elephant camps across the State.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre directed officials to ensure that tourists watch elephant bathing activities only from a minimum distance of 100 feet. He also instructed the Forest Department to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) aimed at strengthening visitor safety and preventing similar incidents.

Under the revised guidelines, tourists will no longer be permitted to go near elephants, take selfies or photographs close to them, touch elephant trunks, bathe elephants or feed them bananas, jaggery and sugarcane.

FUEL-PRICE ROW

Kharge accuses BJP of lacking leadership amid fuel shock

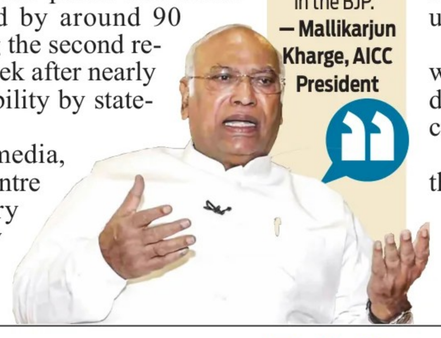
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the recent fuel price hike and the closure of legal proceedings against industrialist Gautam Adani in the United States, alleging that the BJP lacked "foresight and leadership".

His remarks came after petrol and diesel prices were increased by around 90 paise per litre, marking the second revision in less than a week after nearly four years of price stability by state-run oil companies.

In a post on social media, Kharge accused the Centre of burdening ordinary citizens while allegedly favouring corporate interests. Referring to the U.S. Justice Department dropping criminal charges against Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, the Congress chief claimed the BJP government was protecting select industrialists even as inflation hurt common people.

"There is a lack of foresight and leadership in the BJP."
— Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC President



Kharge also criticised the Centre's handling of Russian oil imports, alleging that the government had sought an extension from the United States for continued purchases.

He questioned why fuel prices were being increased despite India continuing to import Russian crude oil.

The Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha further accused the BJP of focusing on elections and publicity rather than addressing economic challenges faced by citizens.

ORR COMMUTERS SET FOR 1-YR OF TRAFFIC CHAOS

Bengaluru's busy ORR tech corridor will undergo a major overhaul as authorities prepare to replace the existing tar roads with concrete roads between Silk Board and KR Puram

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The main carriageway of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) tech corridor is set to be ripped open for concretisation, with work expected to last at least a year and trigger major disruption along one of the city's busiest corridors.

Under the Rs 378-crore redevelopment project, the existing tar stretch from Silk Board Junction to KR Pura will be dug up and replaced with 190mm-thick concrete roads for 17.1 km, as part of a large-scale corridor overhaul.

According to officials from Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE), the tender process is in its final stages, with two bidders in the fray. While the technical bid process has been completed, the project has now moved to the financial bid stage and work is expected to begin soon.

Officials from B-SMILE said the official completion target is one year, though efforts are being made to finish the project within nine months. Despite monsoon approaching, officials said work will not be delayed until the end of the rainy season, arguing that immediate execution is necessary to complete the project on time and avoid prolonged disruption once Namma Metro services become operational along the corridor.

The redevelopment spans 17.1km and will be executed in two parts, a 5.4km stretch from Silk Board to Iblur and an 11.6km one from Iblur to KR Pura, while also upgrading six major junctions, including Silk Board, HSR, Agara, Iblur, Marathahalli, and Lowry junctions.

The disruption could significantly impact the city's busiest tech corridor, home to 23 tech parks and more than 450 IT companies, with more than eight lakh employees commuting through the stretch daily. While there is no clarity yet on whether tech parks will introduce staggered timings or hybrid work measures, the scale of commuter inconvenience is expected to be significant.

The DPR also includes Rs 48.4 crore for service road reconstruction, Rs 17.4 crore for footpath upgrade, Rs 16.7 crore for street lighting, and Rs 9.8 crore for drainage improvements to support the corridor overhaul.

Cops make alternative traffic arrangements

Bengaluru Traffic Police officials said alternative traffic arrangements would be worked out in consultation with stakeholders. However, they added that discussions on diversions are yet to formally begin.

ORR main carriageway set for concretisation

The main carriageway of Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (Silk Board to KR Pura) will be dug up and converted into 190mm-thick concrete stretch as part of a Rs 378-crore redevelopment project, officials said. The work is expected to significantly alter the corridor.

17.1 lm tech corridor to be rebuilt in 2 phases

The ORR upgrade covers 19.1 km from Silk Board to KR Puram, divided into Silk Board-Iblur (5.4 km) and Iblur-KR Puram (11.6 km). The project also includes junction upgrades across six major intersections aling the corridor.

Rains sink B'luru roads, throw traffic out of gear

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Heavy rain and fierce thunderstorm leave several Bengaluru roads waterlogged as commuters struggle through long traffic snarls; flight schedules also hit

Heavy rain accompanied by thunder and lightning brought large parts of Bengaluru to a standstill, causing severe waterlogging, traffic congestion and disruption to daily life across the city.

The sudden downpour during peak hours left thousands of commuters stranded on flooded roads as vehicles moved slowly through waterlogged junctions and overflowing drains.

Several key areas in Bengaluru reported major flooding after intense rainfall. Among the worst-hit locations were Majestic, Shivajinagar, KR Market, Rajajinagar and Vasanth Nagar, where roads were submerged and traffic movement was heavily affected.

Motorists faced long delays as vehicles crawled through flooded stretches. In several areas, underpasses and internal roads went underwater, forcing commuters to take alternate routes and diversions.

The rain also exposed drainage problems in many parts of the city, with stormwater overflowing onto roads and creating difficulties for both motorists and pedestrians.

Apart from Bengaluru, heavy rain with thunder and lightning was also reported from parts of north Karnataka, including Hubballi and Dharwad. Residents in these cities reported temporary flooding in low-lying areas after intense showers lashed the region.

The worsening weather conditions also impacted air travel operations at Bengaluru airport. Airline major IndiGo stated that flight schedules to and from Bengaluru were affected due to the bad weather conditions.

In a statement, the airline said it was closely monitoring the weather situation and making efforts to ensure passengers reached their destinations safely and smoothly despite operational disruptions.

The heavy rainfall comes amid forecasts of continued wet weather across Karnataka in the coming days. Authorities are expected to closely monitor vulnerable flooding zones and traffic movement in Bengaluru as more rain is likely.

Plan early, start early

Commuters have been advised to plan travel carefully, especially during evening peak hours, as waterlogging and slow-moving traffic continue to affect several major roads across the city.

QUICK READ

Demand for e-bikes shoots up in Bengaluru

CH News, Bengaluru

Following steep rise in petrol and diesel prices in the country amid the West Asia tensions, the demand has gone up for electric vehicles in Bengaluru. The fuel crisis has started due to the effect of the war in West Asia. Due to the Iran war effect and closure of Strait of Hormuz, the prices of petrol and diesel was hike by Rs 3 per liter and it was further increased by 90 paise on Tuesday. People are turning to electric vehicles because they are environmentally-friendly, have low maintenance costs, and are fuel-efficient. Many entrepreneurs from Karnataka are now manufacturing and launching new EV bikes in the market, with a budget-friendly pricing.

Driver found dead in parked car in Peenya

CH News, Bengaluru

A driver died suddenly while sleeping in a parked car in Nelagedarahalli under Peenya police station limits. The deceased, Puneeth (37), had parked his car on the roadside near Nelagedarahalli. Locals noticed that the car had been parked for at least 12 hours and became suspicious. On being checked, they found the driver sleeping inside with the AC on and the door, closed and tried to wake him up. Despite several attempts, Puneeth did not wake up. So the locals broke the glass with a stone and found the driver dead. They soon alerted the police, who rushed him to a private hospital, where the doctors declared him died of a heart attack. The police said that an unnatural death report (UDR) has been registered based on a complaint filed by the deceased's relatives.

Solving water crunch top priority: Chikkaraju

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Kaggalipur Block Congress President Chikkaraju said that steps will be taken to alleviate water shortage in villages under the jurisdiction of Kumbalagod Gram Panchayat.

He said that all the village leaders performed special pujas at the Chandramouleshwara Swamy temple in Anchepalya village under the jurisdiction of Kumbalagod Gram Panchayat in Yeshwantpur assembly constituency and resolved to bring rain and alleviate the water shortage.

Former President of Kumbalagod Gram Panchayat Ramakrishna said that due to the lack of rain and the decline in the groundwater level, more than 50 new borewells have been stopped and the public is facing water shortage.

He said that special prayers were offered at the Chandramouleshwara temple in Anchepalya in collaboration with MLA ST Somashekar and Kumbalagod Gram Panchayat and good water came out when a borewell was drilled.

He said that steps have been taken to inaugurate a new borewell and start water supply to the public and alleviate the water shortage of the people in the rural areas.

Former President of Kumbalagod Gram Panchayat, Mannina Maga Ramakrishna, Nandakumar, Anees, Jamil Taj, Sanaullah, Srinivas, Rajanna, Shivamma, Bhagyamma, Anusuya, Shweta, Sharada, Dharmaiah, Meenakshamma, Govindappa, Ramegowda, Murthy,Habib, John and others were present.

Civic worker dies at rehab centre

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 30-year-old pourakarmika died under suspicious circumstances at a rehabilitation centre in Kengeri, with family members alleging the staff assaulted him in front of his nephew and other relatives.

The deceased, Ramesh, a resident of Gavipuram in South Bengaluru, was a chronic alcoholic.

His family had admitted him to Poornapragna Rehab Foundation two months ago. His nephew, Ajay, and two other relatives were admitted to the same rehab centre. Ajay alleged that on Sunday, the rehab centre staff assaulted Ramesh over a trivial issue.

He claimed Ramesh was beaten on the chest and legs using pipes. The rehab centre employees allegedly informed the family that Ramesh had complained of chest pain and was being shifted to a hospital early Monday. However, they later claimed he died on the way to hospital. Police said Ramesh had complained of chest pain Sunday evening, which was allegedly neglected by the staff as they suspected he was making excuses to get out of the centre.

Later at night, they gave him a gastric tablet, and when he felt uneasy in the early hours, they rushed him to the hospital.

A case of causing death by negligence has been registered against rehab owner Prakash and others.

DETAINEE CAN'T CHOOSE PLACE OF CONFINEMENT: HC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a detainee cannot dictate the place of his/her confinement, the high court said in a recent order. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum made the observation while dismissing a petition filed by Irfan Pasha alias Batan, who was under detention in Central Prison, Ballari.

On April 6, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) passed an order under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, directing that the petitioner be kept under preventive detention. Based on the direction, Pasha was kept in Central Prison, Ballari. In his petition, Pasha claimed since he is from Mysuru district, he should be transferred to KR Nagar Jail or Nanjangud Jail, primarily on the ground that he was suffering from ailments that required periodic medical attention.

According to him, facilities would be more accessible if he was lodged in a prison nearer to his hometown. The government advocate, however, submitted that the petitioner had a chequered history of involvement in drug peddling since 2014, and his detention at Ballari was a conscious administrative decision intended to sever his local network and prevent recurrence of illicit activities.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum noted that Pasha was alleged to be involved in drug-peddling activities over a period of time.

The objective of placing a detainee in prison away from his area of operation is to disrupt the chain of contacts and break the local nexus, the judge pointed out. In the case on hand, the only ground cited was the petitioner was suffering from certain ailments and required medical attention. However, no material of such compelling nature was placed on record to indicate that adequate medical facilities were unavailable at Central Prison, Ballari, the judge added. In the absence of any substantiated material indicating denial of such care, mere assertion of illness could not be a ground to seek transfer to another jail as a matter of right, Justice Magadum further noted.

HC puts stop to transport strike

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court has put a stop to the strike called by transport organizations on May 20 demanding the fulfillment of various demands. This has brought much-needed relief to the public.

The Court, which heard a Public Interest Litigation (PLI) filed by two construction workers and a domestic worker, has directed them not to go on strike. It has directed them to hold talks with the government and adjourned the hearing till Thursday. It has also issued a notice to the state government asking it to hold a meeting with transport employees.

The state government has increased wages by 12.5 percent. It is not right to strike again. We will refrain from striking today. We have said that we will hold talks with the government and hold another hearing on Thursday.

Still, following the High Court's order, the Joint Action Committee of the transport employees has decided to call off the strike.

The government has given only 12.5 percent to the demand for a 25 percent salary increase. 25 percent salary should be paid from January 2024. The arrears should be paid in full. 26 months' arrears should be paid in one instalment, allowances should be increased. Immediate compensation should be given to the families of those who died in Covid. 1 month's deadline to resolve administrative issues. 26 months' arrears of Rs 1,272 crore should be released. are the demands of transport employees.

CHEMIST STIR

Medical stores to remain shut in state today

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The All India Pharmaceutical Traders Association (AIPTA) has called for a nationwide medical bandh, demanding a halt to the online purchase and sale of medicines through Blinkit, Swiggy, Zomato and other online platforms.

In this context, medical stores in Karnataka will also support the bandh and close.

In Karnataka too, the Karnataka Drug Dealers Association has called for a complete shutdown of medical shops for a day.

There are more than 26,000 medical shops in the state, and a bandh has been called for from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on the 20th. Medicines are being sold through various apps, which is hurting registered medical shop owners, the medical shop owners have lamented.

The central government had allowed the sale of medicines online during the Covid period. Some app-based companies that continued to do the same have made this their business. The central government was also requested to put a stop to this. However, after it did not yield any benefit, a bandh call was given to more than 12.4 lakh medical

stores across the country.

Problems with online medicine sales include, unregulated online medicine sales includes Use of fake medicine vouchers, abuse of antibiotics and addictive drugs, lack of direct contact between patient and pharmacist, risk of counterfeit and improperly stored medicines, excessive discount policy also a problem,

risk to small traders due to heavy discounts, there is a threat of monopoly in the market, are the problems with online medicine sales, as mentioned in the memorandum.

GSR 220 (E) and GSR 817(E) should be withdrawn, GSR 817 (E) should be withdrawn, illegal e-pharmacies should be closed, strict action should be taken against excessive discounts, small drug dealers should be protected are the main demands of the Pharmaceutical Traders.

Still, even if medical services are provided under essential services, this is a question of the life of medical owners.

They obtain licenses from the government and supply medicines. But app-based companies are illegally collecting medicines and selling them through online delivery without any permission from the government. This is also a danger to the patient's life.

Medicine sellers are demanding that the central and state governments wake up immediately.

This is the first time that medical stores are being closed, and it remains to be seen how much impact it will have on the people.

A Blueprint of Progress:
Karnataka's Three- Year Journey Towards Inclusive Growth and Empowerment

CITY HILIGHTS
WEDNESDAY ▸ MAY 20, 2026
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A deep dive into Nava Karnataka's transformation

INTRODUCTION: A NEW ERA OF GOVERNANCE

Three years ago, the political landscape of Karnataka witnessed a paradigm shift as a new government, spearheaded by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, assumed the mantle of leadership. With a resounding mandate from the electorate, the administration embarked on a highly ambitious journey to fundamentally reshape the socio-economic contours of the state. Anchored in the profound philosophical tenets of 'Kayaka'—the dignity of labor as espoused by the 12th-century Veerashaiva-Lingayat saints—and the unwavering commitment to social justice envisioned by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the government set out to build a 'Nava Karnataka' (New Karnataka). This vision was not merely a political slogan but a meticulously crafted blueprint aimed at achieving equitable progress, vibrant prosperity, and absolute equality for all citizens, irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds.

The past three years have been characterized by a relentless pursuit of these ideals. The state has emerged as a formidable model of development, successfully demonstrating that economic growth and social welfare are not mutually exclusive but inherently complementary. Against the backdrop of global economic uncertainties, supply chain disruptions, and inflationary pressures, the Karnataka government chose a path of proactive intervention.

Instead of allowing the burden of these macro-economic challenges to crush the common man, the administration introduced a safety net of unparalleled magnitude: The Five Guarantee Schemes. These schemes, conceptualized under the framework of Universal Basic Income, have structurally

transformed the lives of millions, injecting unprecedented momentum into the state's grassroots economy while maintaining robust macro-economic indicators.

To truly understand the trajectory of the current Karnataka administration, one must first examine the ideological bedrock upon which it stands. The leadership has consistently articulated a governance model inspired by the 'Sharanas' of the twelfth century. These mystic philosophers propagated the idea that honest labor is a form of spiritual communion, a means to transcend the artificial hierarchies of caste and class. This philosophy of 'Kayaka' has been adapted into a modern administrative ethos, where the state acts as an enabler of dignified livelihoods. Furthermore, the commitment to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of social justice is evident in the government's steadfast implementation of internal reservations and targeted sub-plans for marginalized communities.

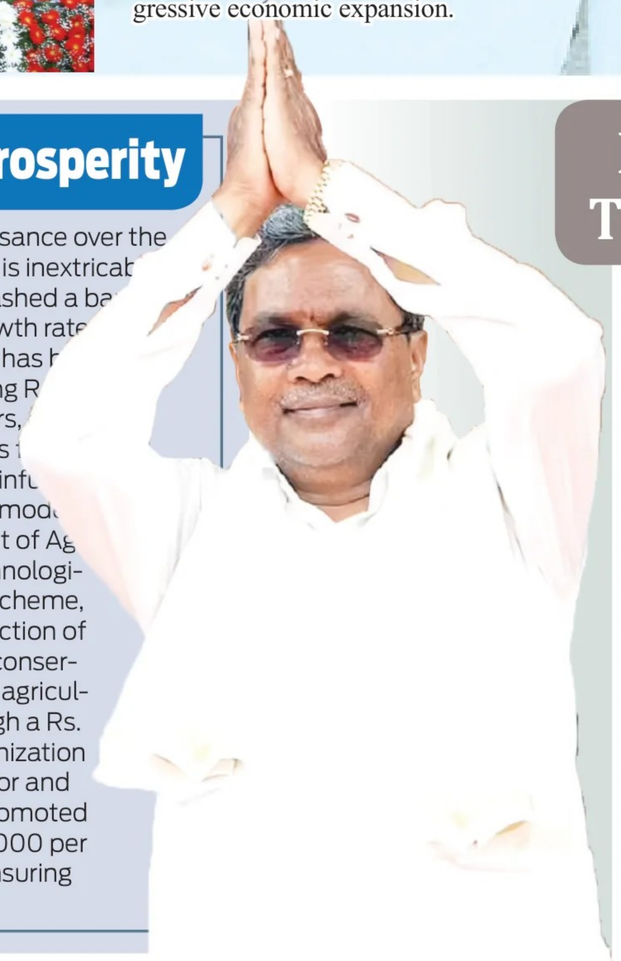
This ideological clarity has translated into concrete policy actions. The government's approach is fundamentally empathetic, recognizing that the state must act as a protective shield during times of economic distress. While inflation eroded the purchasing power of the middle and lower classes across the nation, Karnataka's interventionist welfare state model provided a vital buffer. By effectively socializing a portion of the financial burden associated with essential needs like transport, electricity, and basic sustenance, the administration ensured that human development indices did not regress. This empathetic governance model is not a short-term populist measure but a calculated strategy to build long-term social capital. By investing in the health, education, and financial autonomy of its citizens, the state is cultivating a highly capable and resilient populace, laying the groundwork for sustained economic dominance in the years to come.

Moreover, the administration has been acutely aware of the need to balance this massive welfare expenditure with aggressive economic expansion.

The Ideological Foundation: Empathy & Equity

Agriculture: Sowing the Seeds of Prosperity

Karnataka's agrarian sector has witnessed a spectacular renaissance over the past three years. Recognizing that the state's economic health is inextricab linked to the prosperity of its farmers, the government has unleashed a ba of pro-farmer policies. The result is a remarkable agricultural growth rate one of the highest in the country. A cornerstone of this success has b unprecedented disbursement of agricultural credit. An astonishing R crore in zero-interest loans was distributed to over 83 lakh farmers, ly transforming the rural credit landscape and liberating farmers clutches of exploitative informal lending networks. This massive infu liquidity enabled farmers to invest in better seeds, fertilizers, and mod equipment, directly translating into higher yields. The Department of Ag riculture has also championed the cause of sustainable and technologically advanced farming. The reintroduction of the Krishi Bhagya scheme, with an allocation exceeding Rs. 435 crore, facilitated the construction of tens of thousands of farm ponds, significantly enhancing water conservation in rain-fed areas. Furthermore, the push towards high-tech agriculture is evident in the establishment of 524 Harvester Hubs through a Rs. 173 crore subsidy program for agricultural machinery. This mechanization drive has drastically reduced dependency on scarce manual labor and improved operational efficiency. The state has also proactively promoted natural and organic farming, offering financial incentives of Rs. 4,000 per acre to farmers adopting these sustainable practices, thereby ensuring long-term soil health and ecological balance.



EDUCATION: CULTIVATING THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

The vision of a progressive Karnataka is heavily reliant on a robust and inclusive educational system. The Department of School Education and Literacy has orchestrated a paradigm shift aimed at transforming the state into a 'Kashi of Knowledge.' A landmark achievement of this administration is Karnataka becoming the very first state in India to provide eggs six days a week to school children, an initiative costing Rs. 1,591 crore. Coupled with the 'SaiSure' Ragi Malt program, this aggressive nutritional intervention directly combats childhood malnutrition, ensuring that students are physically and cognitively equipped to learn. The results are palpable, with the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for high school education crossing the 100% mark, reaching an impressive 101.3%.

Infrastructure development has been equally aggressive. Over 10,296 new classrooms were constructed, and vast sums were allocated for the repair, maintenance, and sanitation of existing facilities. The ambitious 'Karnataka Public Schools' (KPS) initiative aims to upgrade 900 government schools, providing top-tier, holistic educational environments that rival elite private institutions. To enhance linguistic capabilities, bilingual sections have been expanded to over 9,500 schools. The state is also committed to ensuring that meritorious students from government schools are not left behind in the highly competitive higher education landscape. The 'Vidyavijetha' program provides intensive, specialized coaching for NEET, JEE, and CET examinations to 25,000 science students, bridging the resource gap and democratizing access to premier professional courses.

In the realm of Higher Education, a monumental Rs. 2,500 crore transformation project, assisted by the Asian Development Bank, is radically upgrading the infrastructure of hundreds of Government First Grade Colleges and Polytechnics. The focus is squarely on employability and future-readiness. Collaborative Centers of Excellence established with global tech giants like Toyota.

Social Justice and Inclusive Welfare

The true measure of a government's success is its treatment of its most vulnerable populations. The Siddaramaiah administration has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to social justice. The historic implementation of internal reservations ensures equitable distribution of opportunities among various sub-castes. For the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the government has mandated a 24.10% reservation in public procurement contracts, directly fostering economic empowerment and creating a new class of entrepreneurs. Educational advancement has been prioritized through the construction of hundreds of new hostels, residential schools, and the provision of international scholarships for higher studies abroad.

The state has also taken a firm legislative stance against social evils. The enactment of the Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Relief) Act and the introduction of the 'Iva Nammava Iva Nammava' Bill to protect freedom of choice in marriage are landmark steps in safeguarding human dignity and constitutional rights. Furthermore, marginalized communities like forest-dwelling tribes, nomadic groups, and former Devadasis have been targeted with specific, heavily funded rehabilitation and infrastructure programs.

The Five Guarantees: A Revolution in Welfare

At the very heart of the government's socio-economic strategy lie the Five Guarantee Schemes. These initiatives represent a historic commitment to universal basic welfare, fundamentally altering the social contract between the state and its citizens. Cumulatively, these schemes have seen an astonishing financial allocation of Rs. 1,39,123 crore over three years, directly impacting the lives of millions and providing an average monthly saving of Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 for poor and middle-class families. This colossal injection of capital into the grassroots economy has not only alleviated immediate financial stress but has also stimulated local consumption and economic activity.

Shakti Scheme: Empowering Women in Motion

The Shakti Scheme, which offers free bus travel for women across state-run non-premium buses, is perhaps the most visible and transformative of all the guarantees. Since its inception, it has facilitated an incredible 726 crore free trips, supported by a government expenditure of Rs. 18,945 crore. The impact of this scheme extends far beyond mere financial savings. It has granted women unprecedented mobility, enabling them to seek employment opportunities further from home, pursue higher education without worrying about commute costs, and participate more actively in the social and cultural life of the state. For women like Gangarathnamma from Doddaballapura, the scheme translates to monthly savings of up to Rs. 4,000, money that is now redirected towards family welfare and personal growth.

Gruha Lakshmi: Financial Autonomy for the Household

Recognizing the invaluable, yet often unpaid, labor of women in managing households, the Gruha Lakshmi scheme provides a monthly financial assistance of Rs. 2,000 to female heads of families. This initiative has reached an astounding 1.24 crore beneficiaries, backed by a monumental financial outlay of Rs. 74,216 crore. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is a powerful tool for gender empowerment. By placing financial resources directly in the hands of women, the state has enhanced their decision-making power within the household. This monthly stipend acts as a critical safety net, helping families manage grocery bills, healthcare expenses, and children's education.

Gruha Jyothi: Illuminating Lives, Erasing Burdens

Energy security is a fundamental requirement for a decent quality of life. The Gruha Jyothi scheme guarantees up to 200 units of free electricity per month to residential consumers. Covering 1.67 crore households, the scheme has necessitated an investment of Rs. 26,115 crore. By virtually eliminating electricity bills for the vast majority of the population, the government has provided immediate relief from the rising cost of living. This intervention ensures that essential domestic needs are met without financial anxiety. Citizens like Sharadamma from Chikkaballapur note that the money previously allocated for electricity is now utilized for other pressing household requirements.

Anna Bhagya: Eradicating Hunger, Ensuring Nutrition

Food security remains a paramount concern for any welfare state. The Anna Bhagya scheme was significantly expanded to guarantee 10 kg of food grains per person for BPL and Antyodaya cardholders. In an innovative move to bypass logistical hurdles in procuring additional rice, the government introduced a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) component, transferring the cash equivalent of the additional 5 kg directly to beneficiaries. Benefiting 4.48 crore individuals with an expenditure of Rs. 18,897 crore, Anna Bhagya has been instrumental in eradicating hunger.

As Gowramma from Ajjavara poignantly shares, the scheme ensures that no one in her family goes to bed hungry.

YUVA NIDHI: SUPPORTING THE ARCHITECTS OF THE FUTURE

Recognizing the invaluable, yet often unpaid, labor of women in managing households, the Gruha Lakshmi scheme provides a monthly financial assistance of Rs. 2,000 to female heads of families. This initiative has reached an astounding 1.24 crore beneficiaries, backed by a monumental financial outlay of Rs. 74,216 crore. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is a powerful tool for gender empowerment. By placing financial resources directly in the hands of women, the state has enhanced their decision-making power within the household. This monthly stipend acts as a critical safety net, helping families manage grocery bills, healthcare expenses, and children's education. Beneficiaries like Jayamma Badiger from Haveri District attest that this scheme has become a beacon of hope, bringing profound positive change and fostering a profound sense of self-reliance.

Key Statistical and Strategic Pointers: The Metrics of Progress

Economic Dominance

- **Unmatched GSDP Growth:** Karnataka achieved an 8.1% GSDP growth rate, significantly outpacing the national average of 7.4%.
- **Wealth Creation:** Ranks 1st nationally in per capita income, sitting 97% higher than the rest of India.
- **FDI Magnet:** Maintained its position as the 2nd highest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment in India, drawing over $24.3 billion.

Transformative Social Welfare

- **The Guarantee Injection:** A historic Rs. 1,39,123 crore directly transferred to citizens, fundamentally altering the grassroots economic landscape.
- **Democratizing Mobility:** The Shakti scheme enabled an astounding 726 crore free bus trips for women, boosting female workforce participation.
- **Household Autonomy:** Rs. 74,216 crore allocated to the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, providing Rs. 2,000 monthly to 1.24 crore female heads of families.
- **Housing Security:** Rapid completion of 4.33 lakh homes for marginalized and low-income demographics.

Agrarian and Infrastructure Milestones

- **Agricultural Renaissance:** A massive Rs. 70,000 crore disbursed as zero-interest loans to 83 lakh farmers, culminating in a 9.1% agricultural growth rate.

- **Educational Milestones:** Reached a 101.3% Gross Enrolment Ratio in high schools; pioneered providing eggs six days a week to combat malnutrition.
- **Job Creation Machine:** The 'Invest Karnataka Summit' secured Rs. 10.27 lakh crore in investment commitments, generating over 6 lakh future employment opportunities.

QUICK READ

Teen drowns after getting trapped in well

Raichur

An 18-year-old youth drowned while swimming in a well at Madrakal village in Devdurga taluk. The deceased was identified as Nabisab, a resident of the same village. According to sources, he had gone swimming in the well along with friends when he reportedly became trapped in mud at the bottom and drowned. After receiving information about the incident, local residents and police rushed to the spot and retrieved the body from the well. Police have registered a case at Jalahalli Police Station and started further investigation. The incident caused grief among villagers and relatives in the area.

Minority College opens admissions for PUC courses

Vijayapura

Applications have been invited for admission to First PUC courses for the 2026-27 academic year at the Minority Women's Pre-University College in Vijayapura. Admissions are available for Science, Commerce and Arts streams. Officials said 75 percent of seats are reserved for minority community students, while the remaining 25 percent are open to other communities. Interested students must submit applications through offline mode before June 1, 2026. Filled forms should be submitted at the District Office of the Minority Welfare Department in Vijayapura. Students can contact department officials for further details regarding admission procedures and eligibility criteria.

Tragedy strikes family as father and son die

Kalaburagi

A father and son died in separate incidents on the same day in Itaga village of Jevargi taluk. Police identified the deceased as Siddappa Ningappa Poojari, 45, and his son Malappa Siddappa Poojari, 22. According to sources, Siddappa allegedly died by suicide in his agricultural field after facing financial difficulties linked to loans from a bank and private lenders. Later that day, Malappa reportedly suffered an electric shock while spraying water at an under-construction building. PSI Chidanand Savadi inspected the spots, and a case was registered at Nelogi Police Station for further investigation by officials.

Strong winds topple windmill, workers escape safely

Raichur

A wind power fan installed in a farmer's field near Medaral Tanda in Maski taluk collapsed due to heavy rain and strong winds, creating panic among workers at the site. Fortunately, the workers escaped with only minor injuries, avoiding a major tragedy. Following the incident, Dalit Sangharsha Samiti city unit president Mallik Murari accused the company of negligence and claimed the wind power structures were installed in an unscientific manner. He alleged that poor installation caused the collapse during bad weather and demanded strict action against the company responsible for the project immediately.

Severe drinking water crisis hits Basirapur

Basirapur residents staged a large protest against local officials after an acute summer water shortage crippled the village

CHITAGUPPA

The ongoing drinking water crisis has severely worsened in Basirapur village, sparking widespread distress and anger among local residents. Located under the Meenkera Gram Panchayat limits, the village has suffered an acute water shortage for several days, forcing residents into a difficult daily struggle.

Frustrated by the situation, villagers claimed they repeatedly approached local officials and panchayat leaders for help, but received no response. Fed up with this indifferent attitude, the angry residents staged a large protest right outside the Gram Panchayat office, demanding the immediate restoration of their water supply.

The protest successfully drew the attention of top local authorities, including Tahsildar Manjunath Panchal and Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Praveenkumar Mathpati. The officials rushed to the spot to hear the villagers' grievances and calm the crowd. Addressing the protestors, the PDO explained that extreme summer heat had completely dried up the village borewells. While two borewells still have water, their motors recently failed, cutting off the supply.

He promised that the broken motors would be repaired immediately to restore water. However, the PDO also revealed that the government has not released any special funds for emergency water arrangements. While local lawmakers have promised financial aid from their personal funds, the official urged residents to pay their taxes regularly. He noted that a lack of tax collection has left the local body struggling financially. The villagers finally ended their protest following firm assurances of swift action.

Broken infrastructure sparks hardships in Aurad

AURAD

Residents of Aurad town are facing severe hardships due to damaged roads, clogged drains, and failing sanitation facilities. Although the state government upgraded the local town panchayat into a municipal council six months ago, residents complain that the upgrade remains only on paper. Even the official office signboard has not been changed, reflecting widespread administrative negligence.

The town is expanding rapidly, with its population crossing twenty-five thousand people spread across twenty wards. Despite this growth, basic amenities remain missing. Aurad's main commercial road, which connects local hospitals, banks, courts, and the busy bus stand, is now filled with dangerous potholes. Furthermore, illegal shop encroachments on footpaths have forced pedestrians to walk dangerously on the busy road.

The situation worsens during rains because the drains are choked with heavy silt and plastic garbage. Recently, filthy water overflowed onto the streets and flooded local shops, causing heavy financial losses to traders. Throughout residential areas, piles of uncollected waste emit a foul smell. This poor waste disposal has triggered a massive mosquito infestation, raising serious fears of infectious diseases among children and senior citizens.

Aurad town faces severe infrastructure decay and sanitation failures, prompting local lawmaker Prabhu Chavan to reprimand negligent municipal officials and order immediate repairs

Frustrated citizens have strongly condemned the local administration for this civic collapse. The issue sparked heated arguments during a recent town meeting, where public leaders slammed official laziness. Local lawmaker Prabhu Chavan openly reprimanded the municipal officials, strictly ordering them to clear the garbage heaps and repair the broken infrastructure immediately.

Protesting farmer unions blocked the Aland highway, demanding farm loan waivers, minimum support prices, and improved local infrastructure

Farmers block highway demanding major financial relief

ALAND

Members of the All India Kisan Sabha and the Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union staged a massive highway blockade in Aland. The intense demonstration was organized to protest the government's alleged failure to address mounting agricultural struggles.

The farmer unions have been holding an indefinite sit-in protest outside the local traveller's bungalow since March 23. Moving their agitation onto the main highway, protesters completely halted traffic, causing significant delays for daily commuters. A large police force led by Inspector Sharanabasappa Kodta rushed to the spot to maintain law and order and manage the chaotic scene.

During the protest, farmer leaders submitted a detailed memorandum to Tahsildar Annarao Patil. Their primary demands include the complete waiver of farm loans and private debts taken by poor laborers. They also demanded the implementation of minimum support prices recommended by the Swaminathan Commission, better canal water supply to local fields, and urgent measures to restore depleting groundwater levels.

Furthermore, the protesters demanded steady electricity for irrigation pumps, highway repairs, a new railway overbridge at Kulali, and improved infrastructure for local government schools and markets. Key leaders, including Maula Mulla and Dharmanna Poojari, participated heavily in the rally. Tahsildar Patil assured the gathering that local issues would be resolved quickly by regional departments, while major policy demands would be forwarded to higher government authorities. However, determined farmer leaders declared that their indefinite protest will continue until all demands are fully met.

Memorandum submitted to cancel hostel shifting

BIDAR

The Karnataka Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Committee has strongly urged local authorities to drop a proposal to shift a prominent girl's hostel out of the city. The group is fighting to stop the relocation of the Post-Matric Girls' Hostel from Mailur in Bidar to Ghodampalli.

Committee members met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat to submit an official memorandum demanding the immediate cancellation of the move. Speaking at the venue, the committee's Kalaburagi divisional president, Sangamesh Bavidoddi, stated that the proposed location in Ghodampalli is completely unsuitable. He pointed out that the new site sits in a dense forest area, which raises serious safety and security concerns for the young female students living there.

Furthermore, Bavidoddi emphasized that Ghodampalli is located far away from the main city of Bidar. The area lacks reliable public bus facilities, making it incredibly difficult for students to commute daily to their colleges. The committee warned that forcing young women to relocate to such an isolated area would create unnecessary hurdles and adversely affect their higher education.

The rights group has demanded the immediate withdrawal of the relocation plan. "If this decision is not revoked, we will launch a massive protest along with the students," Bavidoddi warned. Several key committee members, including Dhanraj Mustapur, Beeragonda Ghodampalle, and Veerashetty Kaudage, attended the meeting to show solidarity with the students and protect their academic future.

Seer accuses organizations of masking destructive goals

YADGIR

The Seer of Kanheri Mutt, Adrushya Kadasiddheshwara Swamy, has sparked major controversy by hitting back at groups opposing the "Basavadi Sharan Hindu Convention" in Shahapur town. Participating in the event, the religious leader strongly defended the gathering and firmly asserted that the revered 12th-century philosopher Vishwaguru Basavanna was a Hindu. He accused critics of using Basavanna's legacy to create deep divisions within society.

In a sharp verbal attack, the seer labeled his detractors as "dogs" and "communist dogs." He claimed that his opponents completely lacked ideological strength and were simply resorting to cheap, personal criticism instead of engaging in meaningful debate. He mockingly remarked that God should give more strength to those who bark against the movement.

Using a short fable about a donkey and a dog, the seer argued that critics continuously target religious leaders without understanding the true purpose of their spiritual movement. He alleged that certain modern organizations are wearing the mask of Basavanna while secretly trying to destroy Hinduism from within. According to the seer, the main goal of the convention is to expose these divisive elements.

He further stated that Basavanna's timeless teachings on equality and social harmony belong to the entire world rather than a single community. The Kanheri seer also claimed that malicious attempts are being made to drive a wedge between the Lingayat and Veerashaiva communities. He concluded by saying that those dividing society must be taught a lesson, as the convention successfully concluded despite local protests.

All major financial guarantees successfully delivered: Dr. Ajay Singh

KALABURAGI

The Karnataka state government has successfully fulfilled its welfare promises, ensuring vital benefits reach citizens across the state. Marking the completion of three years of Congress governance, local MLA and Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board Chairman Dr. Ajay Singh announced that all major financial guarantees have been effectively delivered to the public.

Highlighting the massive scale of these initiatives, Singh stated that essential programs like the Anna Bhagya food scheme are fully operational. Under the popular Gruha Lakshmi scheme, nearly thirty-two thousand crore rupees are directly distributed to women annually. Furthermore, over six crore women have enjoyed free travel through the Shakti bus program, while the Yuva Nidhi initiative actively supports unemployed youth.

Singh emphasized that these welfare measures have successfully funneled over 1.25 lakh crore rupees directly to the grassroots level in rural villages, benefiting almost every section of Karnataka's population. He praised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for allocating extra development funds to regional lawmakers, especially within the Kalyana Karnataka zone, proving that the administration firmly stands by its words.

The upcoming third-anniversary celebrations, originally scheduled for May 28, have been moved forward by a single day due to administrative reasons. Addressing rumors regarding an impending cabinet reshuffle, Singh explained that many hopeful leaders have been waiting for the past six months. He noted that the political process faced unexpected delays due to the recent state budget session and crucial assembly elections held across five other states.

Sudden rain brilliantly cools scorching Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

A sudden, heavy spell of evening rain lashed Vijayapura, bringing much-needed respite to local residents from the intense summer heatwave. Thick, dark clouds swiftly gathered over the city skies before giving way to strong gusts of wind and moderate downpours across several major neighborhoods, instantly cooling the region.

The unexpected weather change created highly pleasant conditions, much to the delight of parched citizens who had been enduring soaring temperatures for days. Local farmers in the surrounding rural belts also welcomed the showers with immense joy. They noted that the timely precipitation would drastically improve soil moisture levels and provide crucial nourishment to their standing agricultural crops. However, the downpour brought along a few civic challenges as well.

MINING RUMORS DENIED

Officials clarify fatal Konchur Diggi pit incident

CHITTAPUR

Government officials have strongly clarified that illegal mining did not cause the tragic death of a young child who recently fell into a pit near Konchur Diggi Tanda. The Department of Mines and Geology stated that all online rumors linking the accident to unlawful excavation are completely false.

The official clarification was issued by Somasekhar, Deputy Director of Mines and Geology, alongside Assistant Commissioner of Police S.H. Subedar. The statement came after several local social media posts blamed illegal operators for leaving dangerous, open holes in the ground.

According to official records, the government legally granted mining permission in February 2022 under the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules. The permit allowed the extraction of murram soil from a five-acre private property located in Konchur village. Authorities confirmed that the landholder operated entirely within the law, safely transporting over sixty thousand metric tonnes of soil. Furthermore, the owner paid over thirty-eight lakh rupees to the government in official royalties and mineral foundation fees.

Officials explained that the extracted soil is being used for nearby railway development projects. They also emphasized that proper safety measures, including protective fencing around the excavation site, were already in place.

Expressing deep regret over the tragic incident that occurred on May 6, authorities urged citizens not to share misleading online posts that disturb public peace. They warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone caught spreading misinformation about the tragedy.

QUICK READ

Power cut announced in Chitradurga today

CH NEWS, Chitradurga BESCOM has announced a scheduled power outage in Chitradurga city on May 20 due to emergency maintenance work, officials said on Monday. Electricity supply will remain suspended from 10 am to 5 pm under the Chitradurga Nagar subdivision. Areas affected include Basaveshwara Nagar, Kanaka Nagar, Mallapur, Medehalli Mallanakatte, Ashwath Reddy Layout, Shivacharya Layout, Kodenahalli, Tamatakallu, Rural Police Station area, P.K. Halli and nearby localities. Officials requested residents and consumers to cooperate during the main tenance work and manage their daily activities accordingly until power supply is restored after completion of repairs.

SSLC Exam-2 conducted smoothly in Gadag district

CH NEWS, Gadag The SSLC Examination-2 Science paper was conducted successfully in Gad ag district, officials from the School Education Department said on Tuesday. The exam was held across 7 centres under strict moni toring by appointed observers and local vigilance officers. Authorities said question papers were delivered on time to all centres and examination procedures were carried out under police security. After completion, answer sheet s were safely collected and stored in a secured room. Out of 1,198 register ed students, 950 attended the examination, recording 79.30 percent attendance, while 248 students remained absent.

Chitradurga records 12.7 mm average rainfall

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Chitradurga district received an average rainfall of 12.7 mm, officials said on Monday based on late night readings. Among taluks, Hosadurga recorded the highest rainfall with 26.5 mm, followed by Cha llakere, Chitradurga, Hiriyur, Holalkere and Molakal muru with varying levels of light to moderate showers. Heavy rain also led to da mage across the district. Authorities reported 26 partially damaged houses, one fully damaged house, and several livestock and horticulture losses. In some areas, houses were inundated due to water accumulation. Crop damage was also reported in multiple taluks. Officials said assessment work is underway and relief measures will be provided to affected families.

Govind Karjol orders urgent water supply

The MP suggested RO water distribution via cans and auto trolleys, and use of hydro-fracturing to revive borewells

CHITRADURGA

An acute drinking water shortage has been reported in several villages of Hiriyur taluk, affecting people in 10 gram panchayats, prompting urgent intervention by authorities. MP Govind M. Karjol has directed officials to immediately implement alternative water supply arrangements to address the crisis. He held an emergency review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat CEO's office in Chitradurga and instructed officials to supply drinking water throu gh tankers in villages where borewells have failed or where no private borewell sources are available. He emphasized that ensuring safe drinking water for the public must be the top priority. The MP suggested that water be distributed using RO plants in nearby villages in 20-litre cans and directed officials to arrange auto trolleys or container vehicles for regular supply. He also instructed that hydro-fracturing technology should be used to revive dried borewells instead of leaving them unused.

Karajola further directed officials to reduce dependence on drilling new borewells and instead strengthen existing pipeline systems under various water supply schemes. He stressed better use of Jal Jeevan Mission and multi-village drinking water projects to ensure long-term solutions.Officials informed the meeting that drinking water problems have been reported in 23 habitations across 10 gram panchayats. They said 24 new borewells were drilled, but seven have already failed due to groundwater depletion. A total of 181 drinking water units exist in the taluk, of whi ch most are functional while a few are under repair or closed.

Authorities also stated that Rs 65 lakh has been allocated for drinking water supply arrangements in the taluk. Administrative officers and engineers have been deployed to monitor affected villages and ensure regular water distribution through tankers and local arrangements. Officials added that drinking water issues have reduced in some areas due to ongoing works under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Bahugram Drinking Water Scheme, which include new overhead tanks and pipeline expansion. However, they acknowledged that additional work is needed to achieve long-term stability.

The MP instructed all departments to complete pending works on priority and ensure that no village faces drinking water scarcity in the coming days.

District Cooperative Union Holds Training Programme

CHITRADURGA

A one-day district-level training programme was organised for the Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies from Chitradurga and Hiriyur taluks at Sahakari Bhavan, Kelagote, on Tuesday. The programme was jointly conducted by the Cooperation Department, Karnataka State Cooperative Federation, Bengaluru, and the Chitradurga District Cooperative Union.

The training aimed to strengthen the functioning of cooperative societies and improve awareness of rules, responsibilities, and modern management practices. Officials stressed the importance of making cooperative institutions more transparent, efficient, and economically strong.

Managing Director of Chitradurga District Cooperative Central Bank Ltd., Ilyas Ullah Sharif, addressed the participants and said cooperative leaders must develop a strong interest in the functioning of their societies. He advised them to understand cooperative laws and work towards transforming societies into strong rural economic institutions. He suggested expanding activities beyond traditional lending, including services such as petrol pumps and Janaushadhi Kendras under government schemes. He also emphasized digitisation and transparent operations for better accountability.

Director O. Manjunath said regular training is essential as cooperative laws are frequently updated. He urged officials to work with discipline, honesty, and without political interference. He also stressed the importance of daily functioning of societies.

Director H. M. Dyamanna suggested that both presidents and executive officers should attend training programmes together to improve understanding of cooperative laws and strengthen decision-making within societies. He also paid tribute to the late cooperative leader and former minister D. Sudhakar, stating that his contribution to the cooperative sector remains significant and should be remembered by the institutions.

Representative from the Karnataka State Cooperative Federation, R. Rama Reddy, encouraged societies to actively participate in training and ensure timely payment of cooperative education funds to strengthen the federation's work.

Presiding over the programme, Chitradurga District Cooperative Union President H. N. Thippeswamy said continuous training programmes are being conducted to improve cooperative functioning. He urged participants to apply the knowledge gained and make use of loan facilities provided by the DCC Bank.

Several cooperative officials, development officers, and society representatives attended the programme, which began with a farmers' song and observed a minute of silence in memory of the late D. Sudhakar.

BJP leaders alleged Karnataka's finances worsened, citing rising debt, salary delays, and fund shortages affecting projects and services

BJP leaders attack Karnataka govt ahead of three-year mark

BIDAR

Senior BJP leaders MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale and district president Somnath Patil have launched a strong criticism of the Karnataka Congress government, alleging widespread administrative failure, financial mismanagement, and lack of development as the state completes three years of rule.

Speaking in a joint statement in Bidar, the leaders said the state's economy has weakened, development projects have slowed down, and the administrative system has collapsed. They also claimed that rising prices and increased taxes have worsened the financial burden on the poor and middle class.

They alleged that the government has failed on all governance fronts and accused it of creating a situation where basic services and public welfare systems are under stress. According to them, more than 300 failures have occurred during the three-year period.

The BJP leaders claimed that Karnataka's financial condition has deteriorated, stating that state debt has increased significantly in recent years. They also alleged delays in salary payments to government employees and said several departments are facing fund shortages, affecting ongoing projects and public services.

They criticized the state's flagship guarantee schemes, alleging that the government is struggling to fund them and that beneficiaries are not receiving timely support. They also said transport and power sectors have been negatively affected, leading to operational difficulties in public services.

The leaders further alleged that corruption has increased under the current administration and referred to several scam cases and irregularities, claiming that these reflect governance failure. They also accused the government of misusing public funds and failing to maintain transparency.

They said law and order has deteriorated in the state and accused the government of encouraging social divisions. They claimed that fear among citizens has increased due to weakening of policing systems and rising anti-social activities.

In a separate statement on Bidar district development, they alleged that several projects announced earlier have not progressed as expected. They claimed that infrastructure works, healthcare facilities, tourism projects, and civic improvements are delayed or stalled due to lack of funding and poor execution.

The BJP leaders said the people of Karnataka are dissatisfied with the current government and expressed confidence that voters will respond politically in the coming elections.

World Bee Day calls for bee conservation push

HAVERI

The Horticulture Research and Extension Centre, Devihosur under the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot has called for wider public awareness on the importance of bees and pollinators ahead of World Bee Day, which is observed globally on May 20.

In an official communication to the Information Department, the Head of the Centre said the day is being marked to highlight the role of bees in sustainable agriculture, rural development, food security and employment generation. The centre urged newspapers to help spread awareness amon g farmers and the general public. World Bee Day is observed on May 20 in memory of Anton Janša, regarded as the father of modern beekeeping in Slovenia. Officials said bees are vital for pollination, which directly improves crop yield and supports biodiversity in agriculture. Experts explai ned that honeybees convert flower nectar into honey, a product widely valued in traditional medicine and agriculture. Beekeeping also provides additional income through honey, wax, royal jelly and bee venom, making it an important rural livelihood activity. The communication noted that India has strong potential in beekeeping due to its rich plant diversity, which can support large-sca le bee colonies. It also highligh ted that pollination by bees supports nearly one-third of food crops, making them essential for food security. However, officials pointed out several challenges faced by beekeepers, including pesticide use, lack of scientific training, deforestation, shortage of floral resources, transport costs and weak market support for honey products. Middlemen and lack of export awareness also affect profitability. To promote the se ctor, suggestions include training programmes, scientific rese ar ch, promotion of bee- friendly pla nts, better pricing support, orga nic farming encou rageme nt, awareness campaigns to protect bees from chemical exposure.

Mandya plans meaningful jayanti celebrations in June

MANDYA

Additional District Collector B. C. Sivanandamurthy has called for meaningful and well-organised celebrations of the upcoming June jayantis of great leaders in Mandya.

He said the birth anniversaries of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar on June 4 and Kempegowda on June 27 should be observed with unity, coordination and public participation at Dr. B. R.Ambedkar Bhavan in the city. He was speaking at a preliminary meeting held at the Kalamandir office hall in Mandya, where pre parations for the celebrations were discussed. The officer instructed officials to distribute invitation letters to dignitaries, departments and organisations to ensure wide participation in the events.

Lakkundi Health Centre leads dengue drive

GADAG

A dengue awareness programme was organised at the Primary Health Centre in Lakkundi under the joint coordination of the district administration, Zilla Panchayat and District Health and Family Welfare Department as part of the seasonal health campaign.

Health Inspector Siddappa N Lingadala said that the health department will conduct an intensive anti-dengue campaign during June, July and August, as mosquito breeding increases heavily in the rainy season. He stressed the need for public cooperation to prevent the spread of the disease.

He advised people to check and remove stagnant water in containers, pots, refrigerator trays, air conditioner trays and tyres around houses. He said water storage tanks and drums should be tightly covered and cleaned weekly by emptying and scrubbing them.

He warned that Aedes mosquito eggs can survive for up to one year and therefore strict cleanliness is essential. He urged people to visit government hospitals immediately if symptoms such as high fever, headache, pain behind the eyes, joint pain, skin rashes or body weakness appear. He added that dengue has no specific cure and only paracetamol is recommended, while drugs like aspirin and ibuprofen may cause bleeding complications. Free blood tests and platelet count checks are available at government hospitals. Officials explained that mosquito control measures such as fogging, larva surveys and destruction of breeding sites in tyres, coconut shells and water tanks are being carried out. They also encourag ed using mosquito nets and mai ntaining hygiene around homes. Health experts said dengue and chikungunya spread thr ough Aedes mosquitoes and can be prevented by eliminating larvae.

KRSP opposes Anekal stadium construction plan

BENGALURU

Karnataka Rasthra Samithi Party (KRSP) held a press meet on Tuesday to oppose the construction of the Anekal Cricket Stadium project which will take place within walking distance (1.5 km) from the Bannerghatta National Park. Bannerghatta National Park is an important biodiversity hotspot, a link connecting the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and the Malemahadeshwara Hill forest area.

Building a huge stadium with a seating capacity of 80,000 spectators in such an area will have a serious adverse impact on the forest's environment. The floodlights of the stadium, the screaming of the spectators, the traffic congestion will have a huge impact on the animals and birds in the forest as the area will become urbanised and commercialised. Similarly, for such projects to be built, an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is necessary.

The KPS party demands that if this study has been conducted, it should be disclosed along with the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Therefore, the KPS party argues that it is not suitable to build a stadium in this location and demands that the state government should abandon this project and build such a stadium in another part of the state, especially in North Karnataka.

DISTRICT-VACCINATION-PLAN

Deputy Commissioner orders full Pulse Polio coverage across Mandya

MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar has directed officials to ensure that no child is left out of the upcoming Pulse Polio vaccination programme scheduled across Mandya district on June 28. He emphasized strict coordination among departments to achieve full vaccination coverage for children aged between 0 and 5 years.

Chairing the District Vaccination Task Force Coordination Committee meeting at the District Commissioner's office, Dr. Kumar said that vaccination booths will be set up across the district on June 28. He added that house-to-house surveys and vaccination drives will continue from June 29 to July 1 to identify and cover any remaining unvaccinated children.

He instructed officials to ensure that every child in the eligible age group receives the vaccine without exception. He also appealed to parents to actively participate in the programme and support efforts to eliminate polio completely.

The Deputy Commissioner noted that India has been polio-free since 2011 and was declared polio-free by the World Health Organization in 2014. However, he said continued vaccination is essential due to cases still being reported in neighboring countries, making preventive measures necessary.

For the current campaign, a target of 1,13,034 children has been set in the district. A total of 723 vaccination centres will be opened in both rural and urban areas, including Anganwadi centres and schools.

He stressed the need for special awareness campaigns targeting migrant families, construction workers, and other labour groups to ensure full coverage.

Information campaigns through pamphlets and social media were also suggested. Dr. Kumar instructed all departments including Women and Child Development, Education, Minority Welfare, Transport, and Police to work in coordination for the successful implementation of the programme. In a separate review meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also addressed concerns regarding an upcoming transport employees' strike. He instructed officials to take precautionary measures to avoid public inconvenience and ensure alternative transport arrangements.

He said coordination between KSRTC, Regional Trans port Office, Police Department, and private transport operators is essential to maintain smooth travel services.

QUICK READ

Karwar to face power cut today

CH NEWS, Karwar
HESCOM has announced a scheduled power outage in Karwar sub-division on May 20 due to maintenance work and jungle clearing activities, officials said on Tuesday. Electricity supply will remain suspended from 9:30 am to 6 pm in areas connected to the KHB feeder. Officials also said separate maintenance work at the 33 KV Hanakona substation will cause power disruption from 9 am to 6 pm in Sadashivagada, Halaga, Asnoti, Majali, Mudageri and Hanakona regions of Karwar taluk. Authorities requested consumers to cooperate during the shutdown, complete essen tial work in advance until pow er supply is restored after maintenance completion.

EC announces Special Electoral Revision 2026 schedule

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapura
The Election Commission of India has released the schedule for the Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR-2026), officials said on Monday. The qualifying date for the revision has been set as October 1, 2026, with preparatory training and printing work scheduled from June 20 to June 29. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct house-to-house visits between June 30 and July 29. The draft electoral roll will be published on August 5, followed by a claims and objections period until September 4. The final electoral roll will be released on October 7. In Chikkaballapur district, 1,293 BLOs are deployed for the process.

Tourism Dept suspends water sports on beaches

CH NEWS, Karwar
The Tourism Department has suspended boating and water adventure sports activities at several coastal locations due to weather warnings and the onset of the monsoon, officials said. Activities affected include tourist boating and adventure sports at Gokarna Main Beach, Om Beach, Kudle Beach, Half Moon Beach, Paradise Beach, Murudeshwar Beach, Karwar Beach, and scuba diving at Netrani Island. Boating services in river backwaters and pre-wedding setups at Apsarakonda Beach have also been stopped. Officials said the decision was taken following cyclone alerts and heavy wind forecasts from the India Meteorological Department, along with monsoon conditions along the coast.

Cong rule means corruption, says Ashwath Narayan

Ashwath Narayan alleged farmer suicides increased under Congress rule and contractors face pending payments causing financial stress

RAMANAGARA

Former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayan launched a strong attack on the Karnataka Congress government, alleging that corruption and vote bank politics are its only achievements during three years in power. He said the state administration has completely collapsed and development has come to a standstill.

Speaking at a press conference in Ramanagara along with local BJP leaders, he said the government has failed in every sector and is surviving only through political management instead of governance. He accused the ruling party of misusing public resources and ignoring people's issues.

Ashwath Narayan claimed that since the Congress came to power, thousands of farmers have died by suicide in the state, while the government has shown no compassion or effective support to affected families. He also alleged that contractors' payments worth thousands of crores remain pending, leading to financial stress in the infrastructure sector.

He further alleged that corruption is widespread in the Home Department and claimed that several police officers have been suspended during the current administration. He said this reflects deep-rooted administrative failure and corruption within the system.

The BJP leader accused the government of running what he called a "fight for power" within its own leadership, saying ministers are more focused on internal political competition than public welfare.

He also raised concerns about rising state debt, claiming that Karnataka's per capita debt has increased significantly and interest payments are burdening the state economy. He said industrial growth has slowed down and agricultural and welfare sectors are suffering.

Ashwath Narayan alleged misuse of funds under guarantee schemes and accused the government of failing to control price rises, unemployment, and agricultural distress. He also claimed that essential subsidies and benefits are not reaching farmers properly.

Calling the administration a failure, he said the government has not delivered progress in education, health, or skill development sectors. He accused it of mismanagement and corruption at every level.

BJP leaders present at the press conference supported his statements and criticized the state government for poor governance and lack of development across Karnataka.

Koppal orders strict fertiliser supply system

KOPPAL

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to ensure proper and transparent distribution of fertilisers in Koppal district so that farmers do not face any inconvenience during the ongoing sowing season.

He issued the instructions during a Google Meet with Agriculture Department officials, including joint and deputy directors, assistant agriculture directors of various taluks, marketing officers and representatives of the fertiliser distributors association.

Dr. Itnal said the monsoon has arrived early in the district and farming activities have already begun after two to three rounds of rainfall. He stressed that fertiliser distribution must be handled in a disciplined and fair manner across all taluks.

He instructed officials to ensure that there is no misuse or black marketing of fertilisers and to maintain full transparency in the supply system. He also clarified that there is no shortage of urea in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner advised officials to reassure farmers that even if fertiliser is not available immediately, it will be supplied without delay. He said farmers should not panic and the administration must ensure continuous monitoring of stock and distribution.

Officials informed the meeting that the district's fertiliser requirement for the 2026–27 monsoon season from April to September includes 49,451 metric tonnes of urea, 17,817 metric tonnes of DAP, 5,758 metric tonnes of MOP, 43,446 metric tonnes of complex fertilisers and 1,231 metric tonnes of SSP.

They also reported that as of May 19, sufficient stock is available in the district, including over 12,000 metric tonnes of urea and adequate quantities of other fertilisers.

Authorities said the fertiliser distribution process will begin from May 20 and will be closely monitored to ensure timely supply to farmers in all parts of the district without discrimination or delay.

Child labour awareness drive planned in Chikkaballapura

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Collector urged coordinated campaign against child labour, involving departments and organisations, with awareness drives under Child Labour Prohibition Act from June 13 to 30

District Collector G. Prabhu has instructed officials to make detailed preparations for the observance of World Day Against Child Labour on June 12 at the district headquarters. He emphasized that all departments must work in coordination to ensure the programme delivers a strong social message against child labour.

Chairing the District Level Executive Committee and District Task Force meeting held at the District Magistrate's office, the Collector said the event should be conducted in a meaningful manner to raise public awareness about the Child Labour Prohibition Act and its harmful effects on children and society.

He directed that an awareness rally be organized on June 12 starting from Panchgiri Educational High School at 9 am. The rally will proceed via B B Road and conclude at Kannada Bhavan, where a public gathering will be held at 11 am. He instructed officials to ensure punctuality and proper arrangements for the programme. The Collector called for participation from elected representatives, legal services authorities, NGOs, self-help groups, labour organisations, and social activists to strengthen the campaign against child labour. He stressed that there should be no lapses in planning and execution.

He also announced that a special awareness and protection campaign under the Child Labour Prohibition Act will be conducted from June 13 to 30 across the district. Various departments including Revenue, Panchayat Raj, Women and Child Development, Education, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Industries, and others have been instructed to coordinate enforcement activities.

Officials were directed to carry out surprise inspections at workplaces to identify child labour cases and ensure rescued children are admitted to schools. Parents of such children will be counseled, and repeat offenders will face legal action under the law.

As part of the programme, awareness materials such as pamphlets and posters will be distributed across the district. Public announcement systems on sanitation vehicles will also be used to spread information.

The Collector further instructed that all government departments, schools, colleges, local bodies, and frontline workers including Anganwadi and ASHA staff should take a pledge against child labour as part of the observance.

Officials present at the meeting included senior police officers, health department representatives, labour officers, education officials, and district-level departmental heads, who assured full cooperation for the successful implementation of the campaign.

Deputy Commissioner directed officials to ensure transport continuity during strike, using 280 private buses for passenger convenience

Chitradurga plans transport backup during KSRTC strike

CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh has directed officials to make alternative transport arrangements to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience during the proposed KSRTC employees' strike.

He issued the instructions while chairing a meeting at the District Collector's office on Tuesday, ahead of the indefinite strike announced by KSRTC staff unions from May 20 over six key demands.

The Deputy Commissioner told transport and regional transport officials to act in advance and ensure smooth movement of passengers during the strike period. He stressed that public convenience must be protected under all circumstances.Officials informed the meeting that there are 308 private bus permits in the district, of which 22 have been surrendered. Around 280 private buses currently operating will be used to support public transport services during the strike period.

Private bus operators assured full cooperation and agreed to run services in coordination with the administration so that normal travel is not affected.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of using school and college buses for transportation if the strike continues for a longer period, especially to help students and daily commuters.

KSRTC employee representatives present at the meeting said the strike was being organised due to unresolved demands and expressed willingness to withdraw it if their issues are addressed by the government.

Transport officials assured that contingency plans have been prepared to avoid disruption and maintain essential mobility services for the public.

District Superintendent of Police Ranjith Kumar Bandaru, transport officials, education department representatives and leaders of private bus operators attended the meeting.

Authorities said all departments will coordinate closely to ensure that passengers do not face hardship and that transport services continue with minimum disruption during the strike period.

Farmers applications pending amid surveyors strike continue

HUNSUR

Farmers in Karnataka are facing serious difficulties as licensed surveyors continue their protest for the past three months, alleged Karnataka State Farmers' Association district president Hosur Kumar while speaking to reporters.

He said that despite repeated appeals, the government has failed to resolve the issues of licensed surveyors, causing delays in land-related services and affecting farmers who have already submitted applications. Kumar explained that the licensed surveyor system was created in 1999 to clear nearly three lakh pending land record cases. Today, more than 6,000 surveyors are handling various works such as land mapping, Tatkal Podi, land conversion, ownership records and digital land documentation, similar to government surveyors.

However, he pointed out that their pay is extremely low, with around ₹1,200 per file and ₹360 per sketch, resulting in a monthly income of only ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 in many cases, without benefits like DA, HRA, PF, pension or health insurance. In contrast, government surveyors receive salaries above ₹60,000 for similar work. He questioned the denial of "equal pay for equal work" principles and said that court orders issued in 2013 and 2023 regarding their demands have still not been implemented. He also cited examples from other states where licensed surveyors have been given better status and benefits, and said Karnataka is lagging behind despite high revenue generated from their work. The association demanded that Rule 46 of KLR Rules 1966 be amended to grant permanent status, fixed pay scale and benefits, estimating an annual cost of about ₹288 crore.

Police arrest fugitive after 34 years

KGF

The Oorgaum Police Station in KGF has arrested a man who had been absconding for 34 years in connection with a theft case registered in 1992, marking a major breakthrough in the long-pending case.

The accused, Ravi, son of Selvaraj (62), a resident of South Tank Block, Coromandel in KGF, was wanted in Cri me No.16/1992 for theft.

Police said the investigation had been completed years ago and a charge sheet was filed in cou rt, but the accused failed to appear and remained absconding since then. A non-bailable warrant was issued against him by the court.

Home libraries symbol of knowledge growth: Dr. Manasa

KARWAR

Home-based libraries are not just collections of books but a strong symbol of knowledge, self-respect and awareness, said Dr. Manasa, Chairperson of the Kannada Book Authority, on Tuesday.

She spoke at the inauguration of the "One Home One Library" implementation programme held at Kannada Bhavan in Karwar, organised by the Kannada and Culture Department, Kannada Book Authority and the district awareness committee.

Dr. Manasa said the initiative aims to establish libraries in one lakh homes across Karnataka. She said just as every home has a prayer room for devotion, a library should become a space for learning and wisdom.She added that reading books is similar to meditation and helps reduce stress from daily life while improving knowledge and thinking ability. According to her, home libraries can play an important role in building a more informed society.

The Kannada Book Authority is also encouraging the development of home libraries by providing annual awards and financial assistance of Rs 25,000 in four revenue divisions to motivate participants. She said public support is essential to expand the programme successfully across the state. Officials present at the event said the initiative is designed to promote reading habits among families and strengthen Kannada literature and culture at the grassroots level.Several district-level Kannada Sahitya Parishad leaders, culture department officials and members of the awareness committee participated in the programme.

MONSOON-READINESS-PLAN

Virajpet Task Force reviews monsoon preparedness

MADIKERI

A meeting of the Virajpet Taluka Task Force and Guarantee Scheme Committee was held at Panchayat Sampath Soudha on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Taluk Guarantee Schemes Committee President Prashanth to review monsoon preparedness and welfare scheme progress.

Officials from Ponnampet and Virajpet Panchayat Development Offices were instructed to strengthen precautionary measures in flood-prone areas as the monsoon season begins. The chairperson stressed that safety should be given top priority during the rainy period.

Virajpet Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Rajesh KR directed departments to carry out necessary preventive works, including clearing bushes and undertaking jungle cutting through the CESC department in villages receiving heavy rainfall. He also instructed removal of dangerous trees near Anganwadi centres and schools to ensure child safety. The meeting discussed the importance of maintaining proper drainage systems in gram panchayat limits so that rainwater flows smoothly without stagnation. Officials were told to take immediate action wherever waterlogging risks exist.

CESC department officials informed the committee that 99 per cent of Griha Jyoti scheme-related work in the taluk has been completed and preparations have been made for the rainy season. They assured that power supply and public services would be managed smoothly during adverse weather conditions. Issues related to streetlights in several gram panchayats were also reviewed. Under the Grihalakshmi scheme, officials said 98 per cent progress has been achieved, with payments made up to February and March instalments expected to be released soon. The meeting also noted the need to prevent irregular payments in cases of deceased beneficiaries.

Progress of other government guarantee schemes such as Shakti, Yuva Nidhi and Anna Bhagya was also reviewed.

Mandya honors Padma Shri awardee Anke Gowda

MANDYA

The Mandya district administration has formally honoured Padma Shri awardee Anke Gowda, founder of 'Pustak Mane' from Haralahalli village in Pandavapura taluk, for his outstanding contribution to literature and education. District Magistrate Dr. Kumar presented a certificate of honour to him at the District Magistrate's office ahead of the national award ceremony scheduled on May 25 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. Officials said Anke Gowda has been recognised with the Padma Shri for his dedicated service in promoting reading culture and educational development in rural areas through his initiative 'Pustak Mane'. During the felicitation, the district administration also assured full support for his travel to New Delhi and made arrangements to send an assistant to accompany him to ensure a smooth and comfortable journey. The officials appreciated his life long commitment to spreading knowledge and encouraging students and readers in the region.

QUICK READ

Police arrest mastermind behind Park Circus violence

Kolkata

The sleuths of Kolkata Police on Tuesday morning arrested Faridul Islam, the mastermind behind the violence at minority-dominated Park Circus area in central Kolkata on Sunday afternoon. Protesters pelted stones and bricks injuring several police personnel while the latter attempted to prevent a violent demonstration against the use of bulldozers to demolish illegal constructions. An insider from the city police said that the arrested person took the lead role in organising the violent protest demonstration, first through provocative social media posts and then by giving instigating speeches at the demonstration site on Sunday afternoon. According to a city police insider, the accused persons involved in rowdyism on that day are being identified and arrested after examining

1 killed, 11 injured as bus overturns in J&K's Ramban

Jammu

One person was killed, and eleven others were injured on Tuesday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district. Police said a passenger bus overturned on the Gool-Sangaldan road near the Sangaldan area of the district. The officials said the accident occurred after a bus bearing registration number JK-02CU-7482 reportedly lost control and overturned on the roadside. Soon after the incident, rescue and relief operations were launched by police, locals and emergency teams, who rushed the injured persons to nearby medical facilities for treatment. Officials said one passenger died.

Adhikari promises jobs to kin of 2021 post-poll violence victims

Bengal CM was campaigning at the Falta Assembly constituency in South 24 Parganas district, which is all set to go for re-polling on May 21

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday assured employment support to the family members of Bharatiya Janata Party workers who were allegedly killed during the post-poll violence that followed the 2021 Assembly elections in the state.

Addressing party supporters in the Falta constituency of South 24 Parganas district, Adhikari said his government would take responsibility for helping the families of those who lost their lives during the violence that erupted after the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections.

He also promised support to party workers who allegedly suffered attacks and intimidation during the same period.

The Chief Minister directed BJP candidate Debangshu Panda to prepare and submit a list of party workers from the Falta constituency who were allegedly subjected to violence or harassment by activists of the previous ruling party, the All India Trinamool Congress.

According to Adhikari, the state government would review the list and provide necessary assistance to the affected individuals and their families. Speaking at the rally, he assured party supporters that his administration would stand beside them and address their grievances.

The BJP has consistently alleged widespread violence against its workers following the 2021 Assembly elections in West Bengal. According to figures cited by the party, a total of 321 BJP workers were allegedly killed in incidents of post-poll violence across the state after the election results were announced.

The political tensions surrounding the Falta constituency have intensified following allegations of electoral irregularities during the recent Assembly polls. Voting in the constituency took place during the second phase of polling on April 29. However, multiple complaints emerged on polling day regarding alleged tampering with electronic voting machines.

According to the allegations, buttons corresponding to BJP candidates and symbols on electronic voting machines were reportedly covered with white tape at several polling stations, leading to accusations of electoral malpractice.

Following the complaints, special poll observer Subrata Gupta, who is currently serving as an adviser to Chief Minister Adhikari, personally visited the constituency to investigate the allegations. After conducting an inquiry, Gupta reportedly submitted his findings to the Election Commission of India.

Based on the investigation report, the Election Commission ordered repolling across the entire Falta Assembly constituency. Fresh polling is scheduled to take place on May 21, while the results are expected to be declared on May 24.

Meanwhile, political developments in the constituency continued on Monday when Trinamool Congress candidate Jahangir Khan secured interim protection from the Calcutta High Court against coercive police action, including arrest, until the completion of the election process and declaration of results.

Delhi cops bust gambling racket in Dwarka, 14 arrested

NEW DELHI

Continuing its crackdown on illegal activities, the Dwarka District Police on Tuesday busted a gambling racket operating in JJ Colony in Sector-3, Bindapur, and arrested 14 persons allegedly involved in the operation, officials said.

Police recovered stake money amounting to Rs 6,810 along with gambling-related material, including writing pads, charts, satta slips, carbon papers, pens, mobile phones, and electronic devices used for maintaining gambling transaction records.According to police officials, the operation was carried out as part of the district police's ongoing campaign to curb organised crimes such as gambling and bootlegging and to maintain a safe and crime-free environment for residents.

To strengthen action against illegal activities, the Special Staff of Dwarka District had intensified intelligence gathering, activated local informers, and increased surveillance in vulnerable areas.

Rajkot reports minimal vector-borne diseases amid intensified mosquito control

RAJKOT

Rajkot recorded only one dengue case and no cases of malaria or chikungunya during the week of May 11 to May 17, according to the city health department.

The health department stated that dengue-spreading Aedes mosquitoes are particularly dangerous because they bite during the daytime and can rapidly transmit infection when they come into contact with multiple individuals in crowded urban areas.

Officials warned that mosquito breeding increases significantly in places where stagnant clean water accumulates, especially when sanitation practices are neglected.

According to civic authorities, the short life cycle and rapid reproduction rate of mosquitoes can quickly lead to large infestations if preventive measures are not implemented in time.

To address this challenge, the municipal corporation intensified vector control operations throughout the reporting period.

As part of anti-mosquito measures, anti-larval treatment was carried out in 29,155 houses during the week. Field teams also conducted fogging operations in 133 houses, while vehicle-mounted fogging machines were deployed in areas identified as having higher mosquito density.

The health department said that special attention was given to sensitive residential zones, busy public roads and areas with heavy human movement to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Officials added that preventive measures were strategically focused on locations considered vulnerable to mosquito breeding and outbreaks.

The civic body also conducted inspections at 655 premises across the city. These included schools, hospitals, hotels, hostels, industries, construction sites, commercial complexes, scrap yards, religious places, farmhouses, party plots, petrol pumps and government offices.

Following the inspections, notices were issued under municipal regulations to 245 residential properties and 32 commercial establishments where mosquito breeding sources were found. Authorities stated that property owners, occupiers and responsible individuals are held accountable whenever mosquito breeding is detected on their premises. Administrative penalties and official notices are issued in such cases.

Data released by the department showed that the city recorded zero malaria cases, one dengue case and zero chikungunya cases during the reporting week.

Since January 1, the cumulative figures stand at three malaria cases, 14 dengue cases and one chikungunya case.

The department also released data on other communicable diseases reported during the same week.

Officials recorded 606 cases of cold and cough, 819 cases of general fever, 429 cases of diarrhoea and vomiting, and three cases of typhoid fever.

Cumulative figures since the beginning of the year show 15,838 cases of cold and cough, 13,950 cases of fever, 5,052 cases of diarrhoea and vomiting, 13 typhoid cases and 22 jaundice cases.

Ahmedabad civic chief suspends 4 engineers in Rs 2.5 cr drainage scam

AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has initiated a major crackdown on alleged financial and procedural irregularities linked to storm water drainage projects across the city.

The civic body has suspended four engineering officials, ordered criminal proceedings and initiated recovery actions involving crores of rupees after a Vigilance Department investigation uncovered serious discrepancies in measurement records, billing practices and project execution.The action follows a preliminary audit and inquiry conducted by the corporation's Vigilance Department into several drainage contracts in the East Zone of Ahmedabad. According to officials, the investigation revealed alleged manipulation of official records, duplicate measurement entries, copy-pasted documentation from earlier projects and inconsistencies between actual work carried out on-site and the quantities recorded in official books.The inquiry covered contractors, project management consultants and engineering officials associated with multiple infrastructure works. Statements were reportedly recorded from representatives of several firms, including Vist Construction, Meeral Infrastructure, Dhruvi Buildcon Pvt. Ltd., Ro-Gold Waste Management Pvt. Ltd., Vincenzo Projects Pvt. Ltd., and consultancy agencies such as TUV Rheinland India Pvt. Ltd. and I.R. Class System and Solution Pvt. Ltd.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
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ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.2, ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2 ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 25.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.05.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30ಕ್ಕೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ–ಸಿ.ಪಿ/727/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಎ/2026–27

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department (PWD), Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 04/2026-27 Date: 18.05.2026

In the Tender Notice seen above Tender is invited from eligible contractors for total 06 works through KPP Portal under Head of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 Improvements to District and Other Roads , 5054-80-190-0-01-132 Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (Footbridge), 8443-00-117-0-16-542 Deposit Contribution, 4059-80-051-0-60-132 Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme Other Capital Expenditure works related to Sub divisions of Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru District. Details of capabilities to undertaking or having implemented the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW- 2, 3 & 4) should be attached. Contractors can be awarded the contract only if they have the minimum eligibilities as mentioned in Act 3. Minimum Approx. Amount Rs. 30.00 lakhs and Maximum Approx. Amount Rs. 200.00 lakhs. For Tender to be submitted through KPP Portal for 06 works (Indent No. 29385 (3rd Call), 32608 (4th Call) on 26.05.2026, Indent No. 36193, 36192 on 29.05.2026, Indent No. 31265 (3rd Call) on 03.06.2026, Indent No. 35883 on 08.06.2026) tender should be submitted within 4.30 PM. For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagalur.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/36/254

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Haveri.
E-mial: eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel No. 08375-232454
This office letter No.6/EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-1&2/Tender/2026-27/826 Dated: 16-05-2026

E-Tender Notification

On **16-05-2026** through Karnataka Publi Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following work **Indent No. 20683/CALL-3, 25984/CALL-2, 22894Cat-IIA, 22898Cat-IIA, 26583, 26586ST, 26597, 26598, 26599, 26601, 26604, 26423, 26409, 19701 (1, 2 & 3 Call)** Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on **Dated: 25-05-2026 (up to 4:00 PM)** For further additional information, any changes & queries visit **http://www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Haveri.

DIPR/Haveri/104/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Parisara Bhavana, No.49, Church Street, Bangalore-560001
Phone : 080-25581383, Fax : 080-25586321
No.: PCB/90/BLD/2025/2026-27/521 Date: 14.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER - CALL-1
(Through GOK e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: AMC for Electrical Maintenance in Nisarga Bhavan, S.G.Halli, Bengaluru (1 Year). Approx Value of the work: **Rs.30.76 lakhs.** All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER-2
KSPCB

DIPR/CP/728/AKAR/2026-27

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

BJP defends fuel price hike amid global oil crisis

NEW DELHI

Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies on Tuesday defended the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices, stating that India continues to maintain relatively lower fuel costs despite the ongoing global energy crisis caused by tensions in West Asia.

The comments came after state-run oil companies raised fuel prices for the second time within a week following a surge in international crude oil rates.

The latest fuel price revision saw petrol prices rise by 86 paise per litre, while diesel prices increased by 83 paise per litre. The hikes come amid growing concerns over disruptions in global oil supply routes due to the escalating conflict in the Gulf region and instability surrounding key shipping corridors.

BJP leaders argued that the global situation has affected economies across the world and said India has managed the crisis more effectively than many other countries.

They also urged citizens to conserve fuel, echoing earlier appeals made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding responsible fuel usage during the ongoing energy uncertainty.

Senior BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain said the increase in fuel prices was directly linked to worsening geopolitical tensions and disruptions in international energy supply chains. He pointed to the blockade of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz as a major factor contributing to the rise in global oil and gas prices.

According to Hussain, the world is currently facing a severe shortage of oil and gas supplies, but India has managed to limit the financial burden on ordinary citizens compared to many other nations. He criticised Opposition parties for attacking the government over the issue, describing their statements as inappropriate during a period of international crisis.

Speaking to IANS, Uttar Pradesh minister and Nishad Party founder Sanjay Nishad said India remains comparatively stable despite the growing conflict in West Asia. He credited the leadership of Prime Minister Modi for strengthening the country's position during difficult global conditions.

Nishad stated that rising fuel prices are an unavoidable consequence whenever instability affects the Gulf region, which remains one of the world's most important energy-producing areas.

He reiterated the Prime Minister's appeal for fuel conservation and said citizens should cooperate during the challenging period.

The Nishad Party leader also argued that previous governments should have focused more seriously on developing alternative sources of energy to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil.

According to him, greater investment in renewable and alternative energy infrastructure.

Twisha death: Row deepens as mother-in-law rejects allegations

NEW DELHI

Continuing its crackdown on illegal activities, the Dwarka District Police on Tuesday busted a gambling racket operating in JJ Colony in Sector-3, Bindapur, and arrested 14 persons allegedly involved in the operation, officials said.

Police recovered stake money amounting to Rs 6,810 along with gambling-related material, including writing pads, charts, satta slips, carbon papers, pens, mobile phones, and electronic devices used for maintaining gambling transaction records.According to police officials, the operation was carried out as part of the district police's ongoing campaign to curb organised crimes such as gambling and bootlegging and to maintain a safe and crime-free environment for residents.

To strengthen action against illegal activities, the Special Staff of Dwarka District had intensified intelligence gathering, activated local informers, and increased surveillance in vulnerable areas. A dedicated team was constituted under the leadership of Inspector Kamlesh Kumar, in charge of Special Staff, Dwarka District, under the close supervision of ACP Operations Subhash Malik.

The team comprised SI Dinesh Kumar, SI Topesh, ASI Vijay Singh, HC Jagat Singh, HC Jairam, HC Naresh, HC Rajesh, and Constable Manjeet, who were tasked with collecting intelligence and identifying hotspots where illegal activities were taking place.

On May 7, at around 10 p.m., the team received specific information regarding a gambling racket operating in the Sector-3 JJ Colony area of Bindapur. Acting swiftly on the information, the police team laid a strategic trap near the identified location.

QUICK READ

NCSC takes cognisance of use of derogatory terms in SCs list

New Delhi

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Tuesday took serious cognizance of a complaint regarding the use of objectionable and derogatory terms in the list of Scheduled Castes during the upcoming Census process in Punjab. The complaint was submitted to NCSC Chairperson Kishore Makwana by the Vice-Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, Hardeep Singh Gill. According to the complaint, the use of derogatory language in reference to the Valmiki community during the census process has triggered outrage among members of the community. Considering the sensitivity of the issue, the Commission acted promptly and issued notices to the concerned departments.

Rajasthan can meet rising critical mineral demand: Reddy

Jaipur

Union Minister for Mines and Coal G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday said Rajasthan possesses vast reserves of critical minerals and has the potential to meet the growing demand from strategic sectors such as defence, energy, agriculture, solar power, and automobiles. He said the state is rapidly emerging as a major hub for critical minerals, driven by proactive policies, scientific mining practices, and a favourable investment climate. Reddy was speaking during a review meeting of the Department of Mines and Coal held on Tuesday at the Chief Minister's Residence in Jaipur. The Union Minister said the country's mining sector had witnessed comprehensive reforms.

Eastern India can become agri growth engine: Chouhan

Bhubaneswar

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said eastern India, with its fertile land, abundant water resources, diverse climatic conditions, and hardworking farmers, has the potential to emerge as the growth engine of India's agricultural development with the right interventions and policy support. Chouhan was speaking during the Eastern Regional Agriculture Conference held in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. The Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated the conference along with Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Representatives from Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal.

TN to launch talent research wing, strengthen sports infra

A crucial meeting was held to reinforce state's commitment to nurturing talent, empowering youth, and fostering a progressive environment for sports

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government is preparing a major expansion of its sports development initiatives with plans focused on improving infrastructure, athlete welfare and talent identification across the state.

The review meeting was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium and attended by senior officials from the state Sports Department.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Minister Aadhav Arjuna said the government led by Chief Minister Joseph Vijay is implementing long-term developmental projects with a strong focus on the future needs of the state, including the growth of sports and athletic talent.

According to the Minister, detailed discussions were held regarding sports infrastructure projects proposed for the 2026-27 period. The meeting also reviewed measures related to the implementation of the three per cent reservation for sports persons in government employment opportunities.

Officials further discussed increasing financial incentives for athletes who win medals at national and international sporting events. Plans were also reviewed for upgrading sports hostels and expanding financial assistance programmes designed to support athletes from different regions of the state.

The government is placing particular emphasis on identifying talented students from economically weaker sections and ensuring that financial difficulties do not prevent them from pursuing sports professionally. The Minister announced that a dedicated talent research wing will be established to identify promising athletes solely on the basis of merit.

According to Aadhav Arjuna, the proposed system is intended to function transparently without outside recommendations or external influence affecting the selection process. The initiative is expected to help discover sports talent from rural and underprivileged backgrounds across Tamil Nadu.

The meeting also highlighted the need for athletes to receive essential sports equipment such as shoes, training kits and practice gear without delays. Officials stated that ensuring timely support and reducing financial burdens on athletes are key priorities under the government's sports development strategy.

The Minister said the government is working on mechanisms to strengthen direct support systems for sports persons so that financial limitations do not become obstacles in achieving excellence at competitive levels.

In another significant development, the Minister announced that steps are being taken to digitally integrate sports associations with the Sports Department and athletes through an online platform.

The proposed system is expected to improve coordination, streamline administration and make services more accessible to athletes and sporting bodies.

Earlier in the day, the Minister interacted with athletes participating in selection trials at the stadium and inspected several facilities, including the specialised fitness centre for para-athletes, table tennis arena, weightlifting unit and shooting ranges.

Officials said the government's broader objective is to build a stronger sports ecosystem capable of producing high-performing athletes while expanding opportunities for youth participation in sports throughout the state.

NHRC chief asks SHRCs to avoid jurisdictional overreach

NEW DELHI

He expressed concern over instances where similar complaints are being examined simultaneously by multiple commissions, leading to duplication

Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, Justice V Ramasubramanian, has cautioned State Human Rights Commissions against exceeding their jurisdiction and stressed the importance of better coordination among institutions.

The remarks were made during discussions focused on improving efficiency, avoiding duplication of cases and strengthening information-sharing mechanisms between national and state-level human rights bodies.

According to an official statement issued on Tuesday, Justice V Ramasubramanian emphasised that State Human Rights Commissions must operate strictly within their designated legal framework and ensure that cases are handled in a coordinated manner with the National Human Rights Commission.

The NHRC Chairperson expressed concern over instances where similar complaints or matters are being examined simultaneously by multiple commissions, leading to duplication of proceedings and administrative confusion.

He stated that such overlaps not only create inefficiencies but can also delay justice and complicate the process for complainants seeking relief.

Justice Ramasubramanian underlined the need for stronger communication and regular information exchange between the National Human Rights Commission and State Commissions. According to officials, he stressed that improved coordination would help ensure clarity regarding jurisdiction and reduce the possibility of parallel investigations into the same matter.The Chairperson also highlighted the importance of maintaining institutional discipline while protecting human rights.

He noted that every commission has clearly defined powers and responsibilities under the law and should function accordingly to preserve the effectiveness and credibility of the human rights protection system.

Guj expands post-matric scholarship for SC male students

GANDHINAGAR

The Gujarat government has approved a Rs 18 crore scholarship scheme to extend Post Matric Scholarship benefits to Scheduled Caste male students from middle-income families, widening eligibility criteria and bringing an estimated 3,000 additional students under financial assistance for the 2026–27 academic year.

The scheme already exists for Scheduled Caste female students.

The approval has been granted under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and the leadership of Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Pradyuman Vaja, according to a statement from the Social Justice and Empowerment Department.

The revised provision raises the annual family income ceiling from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs six lakh, allowing students from households in this income bracket to access state-supported educational aid for the first time under this category.

Officials said the earlier framework limited eligibility under the centrally sponsored Post Matric Scholarship scheme to Scheduled Caste (SC) students from families earning up to Rs 2.5 lakh annually.

With the new arrangement, students belonging to families with incomes between Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs six lakh will now be covered through state funding, bridging a gap in coverage for lower-middle-income groups.

The scheme will provide an academic allowance along with reimbursement of approved non-refundable fees.

All financial assistance will be transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism to ensure transparency and reduce delays in disbursement.

Eligibility criteria require students enrolling in diploma courses after Class 10 or Class 12 to have secured at least 50 per cent marks in their qualifying examinations.

For undergraduate courses, a minimum of 50 per cent marks in Class 12 is mandatory. Continued academic performance with at least 50 per cent marks at the degree or diploma level will also be required for students pursuing higher studies.

The department stated that implementation will follow the guidelines of the centrally sponsored Post Matric Scholarship scheme. The entire process, from application submission to approval, will be conducted online. Monitoring will be carried out through the DBT portal and the Chief Minister's Dashboard to track progress and ensure compliance.

Traffic advisory for twin summit rehearsal at Bharat Mandapam

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police on Tuesday issued a detailed traffic advisory for a high-level summit rehearsal scheduled to be held at Bharat Mandapam on Wednesday, cautioning commuters that several important roads in the national capital are likely to witness restrictions, diversions, and regulated movement between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The rehearsal is being organised in preparation for the upcoming International Big Cat Alliance Summit and the India-Africa Forum Summit, both scheduled to take place at Bharat Mandapam between May 28 and June 1.

According to the advisory, commuters have been urged to carefully plan their travel during rehearsal hours and to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience.

The police specifically advised people to use the Ring Road and Vande Mataram Marg, stating that both stretches would remain operational in both directions during the rehearsal period.

For commuters travelling from north Delhi to south Delhi, the advisory recommended using the Ring Road via Rajghat and Sarai Kale Khan for smoother travel.

Similarly, people travelling between west and south Delhi have been advised to take the Ring Road through Dhaula Kuan, Moti Bagh, and Bikaji Cama Place to avoid congestion near the restricted areas. Those travelling between east and south Delhi have been asked to use the Ring Road via Sarai Kale Khan and the Barapullah-Ashram Chowk corridor.

J&K admn reviews preparations for annual Machail Mata Yatra

SRINAGAR

The administration of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday reviewed arrangements for the annual Machail Mata Yatra scheduled to begin in August this year.

Officials said the meeting focused on reviewing the elaborate arrangements being put in place by the divisional and district administrations for the annual pilgrimage, which attracts a large number of devotees every year.

The yatra is considered one of the important religious pilgrimages in the Jammu region and requires extensive logistical and security planning due to the difficult terrain and weather conditions.

The meeting was attended by several senior officials. During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary assessed the arrangements related to sanitation, water supply, electricity, medical facilities, transportation management and emergency response systems. Different departments were directed to ensure that all essential services remain operational throughout the pilgrimage period to avoid inconvenience to devotees.

Special emphasis was placed on disaster management and safety measures following last year's disaster incident along the yatra route. The Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation of several safety-related directives issued after the incident and sought updates on preparedness measures designed to minimise risks during this year's pilgrimage.

Officials informed the meeting that modern technology-based systems are being introduced to strengthen pilgrim management and safety. These include online registration facilities and Radio Frequency Identification-based registration systems aimed at improving monitoring and crowd management during the yatra.

Authorities are also setting up Automatic Rain Gauges and Automatic Weather Stations along the route to provide real-time weather alerts and improve preparedness against sudden weather changes in the mountainous region. Detailed Standard Operating Procedures are also being developed to ensure the smooth movement and safety of pilgrims during the entire pilgrimage period.

Delhi CM announces drive to recycle damaged idols, save Yamuna

NEW DELHI

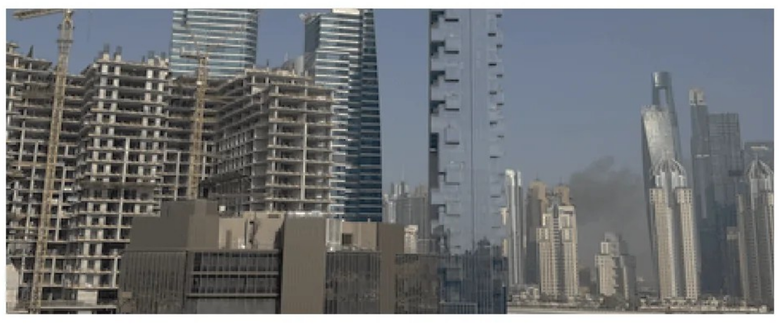
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced a government drive to recycle damaged idols and offer an alternative to citizens who release such articles of faith in water bodies, including the polluted Yamuna.

In a message, the Chief Minister also sought to engage citizens in the drive and invited their suggestions on locations to open centres to collect idols for recycling. We're launching dedicated centres to respectfully recycle our cherished idols, a heartfelt step toward a cleaner, culturally mindful Viksit Delhi, she wrote on X.Have a location suggestion? Public participation makes every good initiative stronger.

Share your ideas, and let's honour faith with dignity and responsibility, together, said the Chief Minister on X.The Chief Minister's video message on social media triggered a prompt response from people, with one of them saying.

'Decarbonisation of buildings, construction sector slowed'

NEW DELHI



Decarbonisation of the buildings and construction sector has slowed, leaving it both a major emissions source and increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts and energy price shocks, a new report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) said on Tuesday.

The tenth edition of the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (2025-2026) assesses progress across the sector using seven key indicators covering policies, finance, technologies, and investment aligned with global commitments towards a 2050 net-zero emissions pathway.

Published amid a global housing and energy affordability crisis, the report highlights how climate action in buildings can reduce energy bills, improve living conditions, and strengthen resilience to climate impacts, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

From homes and schools to hospitals and workplaces, buildings play a fundamental role in our lives, said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.Buildings can either lock in climate risks or deliver safer, healthier, and more affordable living conditions. With half of the world's buildings yet to be built or renovated by 2050, governments have a critical opportunity to drive zero-emission, resilient construction through better policies, codes, and investment, Andersen said.

Every day, the world builds an estimated 12.7 million square metres of floor area -- roughly the equivalent of adding the entire city of Paris in new floor space nearly every week. In 2024, the global building floor area.

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BIDADI
Bidadi Main Road, Ramanagara - 562 109,
Bengaluru South District, Phone : 080 - 2728 2572,
E-mail : ltstaff_ulb_bidadi@yahoo.com,
Website : www.bidaditown.mrc.gov.in

No. : T.M.C./Bidadi/Eng.S./Tender/CR-04/2026-27
Date : 15-05-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Chief Officer Town Muncipal Council, Bidadi invites Item Rate **Tenders for 06 Works. Total Estimate Cost Rs. 189.50 Lakhs the Minimum Cost Rs. 10 Lakhs and the Maximum Cost Rs. 94.50 Lakhs** from the Class-IV and above the Tender Please refer **Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Tender Forms can be Uploaded by Date : 15-05-2026 and the Last Date Receipt of Tender is on : 22-05-2026 & 30-05-2026 till 5.30 p.m. and Tender will be Opened of the Date : 02-06-2026 at 11.00 a.m.

For further Details you can visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** any Changes in this notification will be notified only in KPPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Officer, T.M.C., Bidadi. **Sd/- President, T.M.C., Bidadi.**
DIPR/Ramanagar/59/Manipal/2026-27

ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ.
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ– 571602
ದೂರವಾಣಿ.ಸಂ. 08223–262205,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್–cmoghkrnagar@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ತಾಸಾಆ/ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎನ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/01/2026–27
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ)

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, (ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ) ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಸಿ (ಫಾರ್ಮಾಸಿಸ್ಟ್, ಪ್ರಯೋಗ ಶಾಲಾ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞರು, ಡೇಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್) ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವೀಪರ್/ಗಾರ್ಡ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಾಗಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. **1)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ ರೂ.94 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು **2)** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊಬಲಗು ರೂ.2,35,000/– **3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 15.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. **4)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 06.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ. **6)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 08.06.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **7)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 10.06.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **8)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ,ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ, ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ www.eproc.Karnataka. gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/199/KSMCA/146/2026-27

QUICK READ

Israeli far-right min says ICC prosecutor seeks his arrest

JERUSALEM

Bezalel Smotrich, Israel's far-right finance minister, said on Tuesday he was informed that the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in the Hague has requested a secret arrest warrant against him. Smotrich, speaking at a press conference, did not specify who had informed him of the warrant and the process of seeking warrants is confidential. He also did not reveal the ICC's reasons. The office of the prosecutor at the ICC declined to comment, citing confidentiality of the process. Prosecutors can submit a confidential application to judges, who have to find there are reasonable grounds to conclude a suspect has committed crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC in order to approve the application.

US to host G20 trade ministers' meet in Wisconsin

Washington

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will host a meeting of G20 trade ministers in Wisconsin from September 30 to October 1, his office said, with talks to focus on forced labor, updating the Most-Favored Nation principle and global overcapacity. President Donald Trump is scheduled to host the G20 leaders' summit in Miami on December 14-15 at Trump National Doral.

'NATO shoots down suspected Ukrainian drone'

VILNIUS

A NATO military jet shot down a suspected Ukrainian drone over Estonia on Tuesday, the Baltic country said, the latest in a series of airspace violations in the region amid frequent Ukrainian attacks on Russia. Neighbouring Latvia also issued a drone alert, telling residents near the Russian border to stay indoors, with NATO Baltic Air Police jets summoned to the area, the Latvian army said. Ukraine has stepped up long-range drone attacks on Russia, including around the Baltic. Since March, several Ukrainian military drones have strayed into the airspace

Iran sets fresh conditions for peace deal with US

'Iran is seeking lifting of economic sanctions, release of frozen Iranian funds, and an end to US marine blockade imposed on the country'

DUBAI

Iran has presented a renewed peace proposal to the United States that includes demands for an end to hostilities across the region, the withdrawal of American forces from areas near Iran, and compensation for damage caused during the recent conflict involving the United States and Israel.

According to reports carried by Iranian state media on Tuesday, Tehran's latest proposal outlines several conditions aimed at reducing tensions and restoring stability in the region.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi stated that Iran is seeking the lifting of economic sanctions, the release of frozen Iranian funds, and an end to the United States marine blockade imposed on the country.

The proposal also reportedly calls for the cessation of hostilities on all fronts, including Lebanon, where regional tensions have remained high during the broader conflict. Tehran further demanded the withdrawal of American military forces from areas close to Iranian territory as part of any future agreement with Washington.

The terms described in Iranian media appear largely similar to an earlier proposal that was rejected by United States President Donald Trump last week. Trump had dismissed the previous offer as garbage, indicating dissatisfaction with Tehran's demands and conditions.However, the diplomatic tone appeared to shift when Trump stated that he had paused plans for renewed military strikes against Iran after receiving a new proposal from Tehran. The US President said there was now a very good chance of reaching an agreement that could place limits on Iran's nuclear activities while reducing the risk of further conflict in the region.

Reuters reported that it could not independently confirm whether preparations had already been made for additional strikes that would have marked a resumption of the war launched by Trump in late February. The uncertainty surrounding military action has kept international markets and regional governments on alert.

Global attention remains focused on the Strait of Hormuz, a strategically important shipping route through which a major portion of the world's oil supplies passes. Pressure has increased on both Washington and Tehran to secure a diplomatic settlement that would ensure the reopening and safety of the vital waterway.

Trump has repeatedly expressed optimism in recent weeks that a peace agreement could be reached, while also warning Iran that failure to cooperate could trigger severe military retaliation. Analysts believe the coming days will be crucial in determining whether the two countries move toward diplomacy or renewed confrontation.

Ukraine expands drone campaign to disrupt Russian military ops

LONDON

Military analysts say the strategy is designed not only to damage Russian assets directly but also to create openings for deeper strikes on sensitive targets

Ukraine is increasingly relying on medium-range drone attacks to weaken Russia's military capabilities, targeting air defence systems, logistics networks, and military infrastructure far behind front lines.

As the war between Russia and Ukraine continues, Ukrainian forces are placing greater emphasis on what officials describe as middle strikes — drone operations conducted between 30 kilometres and 180 kilometres behind Russian positions.

According to Ukrainian commanders and military experts, these attacks are becoming a critical part of Kyiv's battlefield strategy.

The intensified drone campaign has reportedly caused significant disruption to Russian military operations. By striking radar systems, communications infrastructure, supply routes, and short- to medium-range air defence systems, Ukraine is attempting to weaken Russia's operational capabilities and reduce its ability to respond effectively to long-range attacks.

Military analysts say the strategy is designed not only to damage Russian assets directly but also to create openings for deeper strikes on sensitive targets. Once Russian air defences and logistics networks are weakened, Ukrainian long-range drones are able to penetrate further into Russian territory with reduced resistance.

The growing effectiveness of these operations has already been reflected in repeated attacks on Russian oil facilities and military infrastructure. Several oil refineries and fuel depots have reportedly been targeted in recent months, creating pressure on Russia's wartime supply chains and energy sector.

Robert Brovdi, commander of Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces.

Xi to host 'old friend' Putin as China projects stable global role

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping is preparing to host Russian President Vladimir Putin for a two-day visit aimed at reinforcing the close relationship between Beijing and Moscow amid rising global tensions.

The upcoming summit between Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin is being presented by both China and Russia as a demonstration of their deep and enduring partnership. Putin's latest visit will mark his 25th trip to China, underlining the importance of ties between the two countries at a time when relations with Western nations remain strained.

Chinese officials have repeatedly described their relationship with Russia as an all-weather partnership built on shared strategic interests and long-term cooperation. The visit is expected to focus heavily on energy cooperation, trade expansion, and geopolitical coordination as Russia continues to face sweeping Western sanctions linked to the war in Ukraine.

Despite growing international pressure on Beijing to use its influence to push Moscow toward ending the conflict, China has maintained its position as a neutral party and peace mediator. Chinese leaders have called for dialogue and diplomatic solutions while avoiding direct criticism of Russia's military actions.

Russian President Putin has publicly stated that China and Russia support each other's core interests, a phrase often used by both governments to highlight cooperation on issues involving security, sovereignty, and international influence.

Analysts believe the summit will further strengthen political and economic coordination between the two nations.

Ian Storey, principal fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, said the summit is intended to send a strong global message about the resilience of China-Russia relations. According to Storey, both countries want to demonstrate that attempts by the United States to divide them are unlikely to succeed.

The timing of Putin's visit is also significant because it comes less than a week after Donald Trump's widely publicized trip to China. Although Trump's visit generated positive diplomatic optics, observers noted that it produced few major commercial agreements or policy breakthroughs.

During Trump's visit, Xi Jinping described relations between China and the United States as one of strategic stability, signaling Beijing's preference for stable engagement rather than confrontation. The statement was viewed as a contrast to the strategic competition approach associated with former United States President Joe Biden's administration.

3 killed in San Diego mosque shooting as cops probe hate crime

SAN DIEGO

A shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego in California left three people dead after two teenage gunmen opened fire outside the mosque complex.

According to San Diego police, the attack occurred at around 11:40 a.m. local time outside the Islamic Center of San Diego, the largest mosque in San Diego County. The shooting claimed the lives of a security guard and two other men who were near the mosque entrance at the time of the attack.

Police Chief Scott Wahl said local authorities, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have launched a full investigation into the incident.

Officials are examining whether the attack was motivated by anti-Muslim hatred, although no definitive motive has yet been publicly confirmed.

The two suspects, both described as teenagers, were later discovered dead from apparent self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

Authorities said the pair had been heavily armed and dressed in camouflage clothing during the assault.

Chief Wahl revealed during an evening press conference that police had received a warning before the shooting took place.

About two hours earlier, the mother of one of the suspects contacted law enforcement to report that her son had run away from home.

She described him as suicidal and informed officers that he had taken three firearms belonging to her,

along with her vehicle.

The mother also reported that her son was accompanied by another teenager and that both were wearing camouflage outfits.

Following the report, police began searching for the pair and increased patrols at nearby public locations, including a shopping mall and the teenager's high school.

While police were already conducting precautionary operations, emergency calls were received reporting gunfire at the mosque.

Authorities responded immediately to the scene and secured the area.

Officials confirmed that all children attending a day school located within the mosque complex were safely accounted for after the shooting.

No students or school staff were harmed during the incident.

Police declined to provide details about a note reportedly found by the suspect's mother before the attack. Chief Wahl also stated that law enforcement agencies had not received any specific threats targeting the mosque, schools, shopping centers, or other public places before the shooting occurred.

G7 finance ministers explore responses to Iran war fallout

PARIS

France's finance minister urged the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to do more to help countries most vulnerable to the fallout from the Middle East conflict, as he hosted ministers from the G7 and other countries in Paris on Tuesday.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from G7 countries met in the French capital for a second day of talks to discuss the economic fallout from the conflict and volatility on global bond markets.

They were joined on Tuesday by representatives from other countries including some Gulf states, Brazil and Kenya as the seven most advanced economies look to build new partnerships amid tensions on issues ranging from the Iran war to putting pressure on Russia over Ukraine.

We agree on the fact that the IMF and the World Bank have to step up their game for those countries (most vulnerable to the impact of the Middle East conflict) and make sure we help them, French Finance Minister Roland Lescure told reporters, adding that a shortage of fertiliser would have a particular impact.

U.S. President Donald Trump said that he had paused a planned attack against Iran after Tehran sent a peace proposal to Washington, and that there was now a very good chance of reaching a deal limiting Iran's nuclear programme.

But other G7 countries have expressed frustration that Washington and Israel launched strikes against Iran without considering.

Russian strike damages Ukraine Danube port

MOSCOW

A Russian air attack damaged port infrastructure in Ukraine's Izmail city in the early hours of Tuesday, while Russian authorities said they had downed four drones launched by Ukraine that were headed towards Moscow.Izmail, in the southern Odesa region and home to the largest Ukrainian port on the Danube River, is a frequently hit strategic location.

Port infrastructure facilities in the city of Izmail were damaged, local officials said on Telegram, adding that nearly all aerial attack weapons were destroyed. Fortunately, there were no casualties or significant destruction.

The Telegram post showed firemen battling a fire at a building that had its windows blown out.

Kenya transport stir over fuel price hikes called off

NAIROBI

A Kenyan public transport strike over fuel price hikes triggered by the Iran war was called off on Tuesday, after the government reached an interim agreement with associations representing bus and minibus owners.

Four people were killed and about 30 injured, Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen said, in nationwide protests linked to the strike as public anger spread over the rising cost of living.

Murkomen told a joint press conference with the transport groups that the strike had been suspended for one week to allow for more talks between the government and transport operators.

The first day of the strike, failed to reach an agreement, despite the government agreeing to lower the diesel price by about 10 shillings a litre.

Transport operators had sought a deeper 46-shilling-per-litre reduction in the price of diesel, the main fuel they use.Energy Minister Opiyo Wandayi told reporters that the 10-shilling-a-litre reduction would cost the government 2.7 billion Kenyan shillings ($20.79 million) in lost revenue.

EXPANDING TIES

S. Korea, Japan agree to shore up energy co-op

ANDONG

South Korea and Japan agreed on Tuesday to expand cooperation on LNG and crude oil supply, including on stockpiling and petroleum product swap arrangements, their leaders said.

President Lee Jae Myung and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said after a meeting in Lee's hometown of Andong that they would deepen coordination to stabilise energy supply lines and expand cooperation with other Asian partners, as supply disruption

from war in the Gulf strains their import-dependent economies.

Recent instability in supply chains and energy markets stemming from the situation in the Middle East has further underscored the need for close cooperation between our two countries, Lee said in a joint press statement.

Takaichi said they also launched a bilateral initiative focusing on strengthening energy supply resilience, including enhancing reserves in the Indo-Pacific, and assessing energy security through measures such as mutual swap transactions for crude oil, petroleum products and LNG.

The two leaders also reaffirmed stronger security coordination, including trilateral cooperation with the United States, as they confront shared challenges including North Korea, and broader regional tensions.

Lee said recently upgraded vice ministerial-level security talks between the two countries marked meaningful progress in institutionalising defence dialogue.

The summit in Andong was the sixth meeting between the two leaders since Lee took office and the second this year under their shuttle diplomacy framework.

Both leaders said the rapid succession of meetings including reciprocal visits to each other's hometowns showed the depth of trust between the countries and a broadening of cooperation beyond capitals to regional and economic ties.

South Korea and Japan have sought to strengthen coordination despite longstanding historical disputes, as both governments place greater emphasis on economic security, advanced technology cooperation including artificial intelligence, and regional stability.

NAME CHANGE

I, **JANNAT FIRDOUSE QURESHI**, D/o. Fazal Ahmed Qureshi, Resident of No. 3, 2nd Floor, Slaughter House A Street Road, H K P Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru -560051, Karnataka, have changed my name to **JANNATH UL FIRDOSE QURESHI** vide dated: 18.05.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **GADI WAHEEDA BANU** Resident of No.5 Flat No.FF-02, ABDA Apartments, 12th cross, Pillanna Garden 3rd Stage A C Post Bengaluru -560 045 have changed my name to **SHAIKH WAHEEDA BANU** Vide Affidavit Dated: 19.05.2026 before notary V.RAJASHEKHARA Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **NABI RASUL SYED** Resident of No.5 Flat No.FF-02, ABDA Apartments, 12th cross, Pillanna Garden 3rd Stage A C Post Bengaluru -560 045 have changed my name to **SHAIKH NABI RASUL** Vide Affidavit Dated: 19.05.2026 before notary V.RAJASHEKHARA Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **FAZAL AHAMED RAHMATULLA**, Resident of No. 3, 2nd Floor, Slaughter House A Street Road, H K P Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru -560051, Karnataka, have changed my name to **FAZAL AHMED QURESHI** vide dated: 18.05.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

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Village Doctor Brings Hope Through Compassionate Pain Treatment Services

Ragini Prajwal Devaraj couple wishing Good luck

Dr. Rakesh H. Jayaprakash has become a respected healthcare professional known for helping people suffering from chronic pain and long-term illnesses. Born in Kolalu village in Karnataka's Chitradurga district, he grew up in a humble farming family that valued honesty, discipline, and hard work. Despite financial struggles during childhood, he remained focused on studies and dreamed of serving society through medicine. His journey from a small village to becoming a trusted doctor has inspired many young students from rural backgrounds across Karnataka today.

Born in Kolalu village; belonged to farming family; overcame financial struggles; inspired rural students.

Dr. Rakesh completed his early education in government institutions located in rural areas. Later, he continued his studies at Sarvodaya Vidyapeetha in Tumkur, where he received free education support. Through determination and excellent academic performance, he secured admission to JSS Medical College in Mysuru and successfully completed his MBBS degree. His desire for continuous learning encouraged him to specialize in Diabetology at Apollo Hospital in Bengaluru. He also pursued advanced studies in Nutrition and Health Management from a reputed institution in the United States, improving his understanding of modern healthcare systems and preventive medicine.

Studied in rural schools; completed MBBS at JSS Medical College; specialized in Diabetology and Nutrition.

A major turning point in Dr. Rakesh's life came after watching his parents struggle with severe pain problems. His mother suffered from serious back pain, while his father experienced painful knee problems and feared surgery. Witnessing their suffering deeply affected him emotionally and encouraged him to search for effective non-surgical treatments. With continuous research, advanced medical training, and guidance from experienced specialists, he developed treatment methods focused on reducing pain and improving patient comfort. His efforts have helped thousands of patients regain confidence, mobility, and

Dr. Heal™
PAIN CURE HOSPITAL
your complete healing is our responsibility

Dr. Rakesh Jayaprakash continues inspiring patients through affordable healthcare, compassionate treatment, and dedicated non-surgical pain services

healthier lives without depending entirely on surgeries.

Parents inspired his mission; focused on non-surgical treatments; helped thousands recover from pain problems.

The trust of patients led to the establishment of Dr. Heal Pain Cure Hospital, which has now become a recognized center for pain management and rehabilitation. The hospital focuses on treating painful conditions such as knee pain, arthritis, disc bulge, hip pain, sciatica, frozen shoulder, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, and AVN hip joint problems. Dr. Rakesh believes treatment should include emotional support, healthy lifestyle guidance, vitamins, minerals, and patient-friendly communication alongside medicines. His caring approach has created strong trust among patients visiting the hospital from different districts and communities.

Ex COMMISSIONER BHASKAR RAO WISHES GOOD LUCK

Founded Dr. Heal Pain Cure Hospital; treats chronic pain conditions; promotes healthy lifestyle guidance.

Apart from hospital work, Dr. Rakesh actively spreads awareness about preventive healthcare through social media programs and public campaigns. His educational activities have reached lakhs of people and encouraged healthier living habits among families. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked on the frontline despite serious risks and continued supporting patients during uncertain times. His courage and dedication earned appreciation from both healthcare workers and ordinary citizens. Many families considered his support valuable during difficult periods when medical services were under pressure and fear had spread widely across communities.

Conducted health awareness campaigns; served during COVID-19 crisis; appreciated by patients and healthcare workers.

Affordable healthcare remains one of Dr. Rakesh's strongest missions. He regularly organizes free medical camps in villages and underserved areas where people often lack proper healthcare facilities. Through his treatments and rehabilitation services, he has helped more than 50,000 patients recover from various painful conditions. Beyond healthcare, he has also created employment opportunities for more than 200 people, contributing positively to society. His humanitarian service has been recognized by several organizations, including the Karnataka Video Journalists Association, which appreciated his dedication and commitment toward public welfare.

Organized free medical camps; helped over 50,000 patients; created employment opportunities for many people.

Many patients visiting Dr. Heal Pain Cure Hospital say they regained confidence after suffering from body pain. Several people who struggled to walk, work, or complete activities now share recovery stories after receiving treatment and rehabilitation support from Dr. Rakesh and his team. Healthcare experts also appreciate his focus on prevention, nutrition, and lifestyle correction instead of depending on painkillers or surgery. His work highlights the importance of accessible healthcare services for citizens living in towns and communities in Karnataka.

Patients shared recovery stories; emphasized prevention and nutrition; promoted accessible healthcare in communities.

Conclusion: From a small Karnataka village to becoming a respected healthcare professional, Dr. Rakesh H. Jayaprakash's journey reflects determination, compassion, and dedicated service toward humanity. Through affordable treatment, awareness programs, and non-surgical pain management methods, he continues transforming countless lives and giving hope to patients searching for comfort, recovery, and healthier futures.

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NAVIGATING THE COMPLEX WORLD OF CHRONIC PAIN

It begins as a whisper—a dull ache in the lower back after a long day at the office, a sharp twinge in the knee following a weekend run, or a recurring headache that seems to arrive with the afternoon slump. For most people, pain is a temporary visitor, a biological alarm system signaling that something is wrong and needs attention. But for an ever-growing segment of the global population, the alarm never shuts off. The visitor unpacks its bags, takes up residence in the nervous system, and changes the very fabric of daily life. This is the reality of chronic pain, a condition that persists for months or even years after an initial injury has healed, or arises without any obvious physical cause at all.

Chronic pain is no longer just a medical symptom; it has metamorphosed into a profound global health crisis. It is a complex, multifaceted beast that intertwines with our physical environments, our mental health, our workplaces, and our societal structures. As we navigate an era of unprecedented technological advancement and medical breakthroughs, we are paradoxically becoming a society that is hurting more than ever before. To understand this shadow pandemic, we must peel back the layers of modern living, examine the deeply ingrained biases in our healthcare systems, and look toward the innovative frontiers of treatment that offer a glimmer of hope to millions.

The Silent Epidemic: Why Chronic Pain Is Rising Worldwide

Across the globe, public health experts are quietly sounding the alarm on a crisis that does not spread through a virus or bacteria, but through the fundamental ways in which we live. Chronic pain is rising at an astonishing rate, cutting across all demographics, geographical boundaries, and socioeconomic statuses. It is, by all definitions, a silent epidemic. But what is driving this relentless upward trajectory?

The answer lies heavily in the architecture of modern life. Human bodies were forged through millennia of constant, varied movement—hunting, gathering, farming, and building. Today, however, our environments are engineered for absolute stillness. We commute in padded car seats, sit for eight to ten hours in rigid office chairs, and return home to recline on modern sofas. This chronic sedentary behavior fundamentally alters the biomechanics of the human body.

When Pain Never Ends: The Mental Health Impact of Chronic Pain

To speak of chronic pain as a purely physical phenomenon is to entirely misunderstand its nature. Pain is not merely a sensation in the body; it is an experience processed in the brain. When pain never ends, it relentlessly attacks a person's emotional and psychological well-being, creating a vicious, self-perpetuating cycle.

Imagine waking up every single morning knowing that your body will betray you. The psychological toll of this predictability is staggering. Research consistently highlights an intrinsic link between chronic pain and profound mental health disorders, most notably clinical depression and severe anxiety. The constant barrage of pain signals physically alters the brain's neuroplasticity, shrinking the areas responsible for emotional regulation and expanding the regions dedicated to processing suffering.

Anxiety becomes a constant companion. Patients often develop a fear of movement, terrified that walking around the block or lifting a grocery bag will trigger a debilitating flare-up. This anxiety shrinks their world, leading to profound social isolation. Friends stop inviting them out because they cancel so frequently; family members grow weary of the constant adjustments required to accommodate their invisible illness.

Perhaps the most devastating psychological blow is the destruction of sleep. Pain makes it incredibly difficult to fall asleep, and even harder to stay asleep.

MYSORE SCIENTIST DR. BASAPPA SALUNDI HONORED VISITING PROFESSOR AT SECHENOV UNIVERSITY

In a historic milestone for Indian academia, Dr. Basappa Salundi, the current Chairman of the Department of Studies in Organic Chemistry at the University of Mysore, has been formally conferred the prestigious lifelong title of "Visiting Professor" by Russia's oldest and most renowned medical institution, Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University.

The official announcement, made directly by Sechenov University's First Vice-Rector A.A. Svistunov, places Dr. Basappa among an elite global cohort of academic professionals selected from across the world, including eminent scholars like Haiyan Hu of China and Jung Hwan Baek of South Korea.

Introduced on November 15, 2025, the "Visiting Professor" status represents a highly honorary, lifelong distinction reserved strictly for globally recognized external specialists. While the role is non-salaried and does not entail formal full-time employment, it serves as a powerful cross-border bridge for international scientific synergy. By integrating world-class minds like Dr. Basappa, Sechenov University aims to elevate its global prestige, secure high-impact international research grants, and expand joint scientific publications in breakthrough medical domains.

From D.Salundi Village to the Global Stage

Born on April 25, 1976, in the small rural village of D.Salundi in the Mysore district of Karnataka, Dr. Basappa's journey is a remarkable testament to dedication and indigenous academic excellence. He completed his entire higher education journey—from his Bachelor of Science in 1997 to his Master's degree in 1999 and ultimate Ph.D. in 2005—at the University of Mysore.

From these local roots, Dr. Basappa built an extraordinary international research footprint, completing advanced post-doctoral stints and fellowships at:

- *Kobe Pharmaceutical University and Meijo University in Japan*
- *Hokkaido University, Japan (as a prestigious JSPS-Bridge Fellow)*
- *The National University of Singapore (NUS)*
- *The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States*
- *The University of Cambridge, UK (as an esteemed Fellow of the Wrangler DC Pavate Foundation)*

Revolutionizing Drug Discovery and Glycobiology

Dr. Basappa's pioneering work lies at the critical intersection of glycobiology, chemical biology, and targeted drug design. His laboratory has been deeply instrumental in designing "drug-seeds"—the crucial molecular building blocks needed to create next-generation therapeutics. His research directly targets complex cellular pathways associated with aggressive cancers, deadly viral infections, and severe autoimmune disorders.

With more than 210 research papers published in top-tier peer-reviewed international journals and over 5,800 citations, Dr. Basappa's academic footprint is profoundly influential. He has successfully secured over three crore rupees in major research projects from premium national funding bodies like CSIR, UGC, and DBT, facilitating state-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure in Mysore.

Beyond his personal research, Dr. Basappa is a celebrated educator and administrator. He has mentored 15 Ph.D. scholars to graduation, with eight more currently under his supervision.

He has previously balanced his heavy research load with vital institutional leadership roles at the University of Mysore, serving as Registrar of Evaluation and Deputy Registrar of Administration. This lifelong dedication has earned him the Sir C.V. Raman Young Scientist Award and the R.C. Shaw Memorial National Award, cementing his status as a national treasure in organic chemistry.

Key highlights of his extensive scientific contributions include:

- Targeting Tumors: Developing inhibitors for critical oncogenic pathways including JAK2-STAT3, NF-κB, PI3K/Akt/mTOR, and Wnt/β-catenin to halt tumor growth and metastasis.
- Combatting Global Pathogens: Designing specific molecular blocks to inhibit the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) of SARS-CoV-2 and the merozoite surface proteins of malarial parasites.
- Neutralizing Toxicity: Creating therapeutic agents capable of neutralizing venom metalloproteases and managing inflammatory disorders through advanced cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2) inhibition.

Women and Chronic Pain: Why Female Patients Are Often Misunderstood

If chronic pain is a silent epidemic, then the plight of women suffering from it is a deliberately silenced tragedy. Within the halls of modern healthcare, a pervasive and deeply entrenched gender bias continues to dictate how pain is perceived, assessed, and treated. Statistical data paints a clear and distressing picture: the vast majority of chronic pain patients are women, yet women are consistently under-treated for their pain compared to their male counterparts.

When a man enters a clinic reporting severe pain, he is typically viewed as stoic, and his pain is treated as an objective, physical problem requiring immediate medical intervention. When a woman presents with the exact same symptoms, her pain is disproportionately likely to be viewed through a psychological lens. Her suffering is frequently attributed to stress, anxiety, or hormones. This medical gaslighting—the practice of minimizing a patient's lived reality—forces women to fight not just their illness, but the very system designed to heal them.

This bias is profoundly evident in conditions that predominantly affect women. Take endometriosis, a condition where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus, causing agonizing, debilitating pelvic pain.

QUICK READ

BEL posts profit growth, declares dividend update

CH NEWS, Mumbai
Bharat Electronics Limited Bharat Electronics Limited reported higher profit in Q4 FY26. Net profit rose to Rs 2,225 crore compared to last year. Revenue also increased by over eleven percent to more than ten thousand crore rupees. Operating performance remained steady though margins slightly declined during the quarter period. Board recommended a final dividend of zero point five five rupees per share. Full year results showed strong growth in revenue and profit for the company. Order book remained robust at seventy three thousand eight hundred eighty two crore rupees. The company also signed partnerships to develop new defence technologies with partners.

Kirloskar Industries Q4 profit declines marginally

CH NEWS, Mumbai
Kirloskar Industries Limited Kirloskar Industries Limited reported a decline in consolidated net profit for Q4 FY26, falling 7.9 per cent to Rs 43.10 crore compared to Rs 46.8 crore last year. Revenue from operations rose 4.55 per cent to Rs 1,827.41 crore. EBITDA increased 4.8 per cent to Rs 216 crore, while margin stayed at 11.8 per cent. The board recommended a final dividend of Rs 13 per share for FY26, subject to shareholder approval at the AGM, the company said in its filing. It also stated dividend will be paid after approval within thirty days through electronic clearing system process completed smoothly.

Samsung strike fears may hit economy growth

CH NEWS, Seoul
The Bank of Korea says a strike at Samsung Electronics could reduce South Korea's growth by 0.5 percentage point this year. It estimates losses near 20 billion dollars if production stops. The report warns memory chip shutdowns could take weeks to recover. Union workers plan an 18-day strike over bonus demands and profits. Mediation talks continue as both sides try to avoid disruption. Officials say agreement is still possible after recent negotiations. Union and company negotiators remain divided over performance bonuses tied to semiconductor business earnings and incentives structure system.

'Eastern India set to lead country's next agri revolution'

"The farmer is our annadata. If there is a second God on this earth, it is the farmer," Union Minister Chouhan said while praising the contribution of cultivators

BHUBANESWAR

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said eastern India, enriched with fertile soil, abundant water resources, and a favourable climate, is poised to become the growth engine of India's next agricultural revolution.

He was speaking at the Eastern Regional Agriculture Conference held in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. The conference was inaugurated along with Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and attended by representatives from Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

Discussions focused on increasing pulses and oilseed

production, natural farming and integrated farming for small farmers.

Chouhan said the conference was aimed at creating a new direction for agriculture and improving farmers' livelihoods in eastern India. He called farmers not only food providers but also life providers and stressed the importance of improving food security, nutrition and farmer income.

The minister said integrated farming methods involving horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, beekeeping and agroforestry could greatly increase income for small farmers.

He also warned against excessive fertilizer use without soil testing and urged states to promote scientific and balanced farming methods. Chouhan announced that a nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan will begin from June 1 to spread awareness on soil health, modern technology and government schemes. He also stressed strict action against fake fertilizers, poor quality seeds and counterfeit pesticides.

The minister said eastern India has strong export potential in fruits, vegetables and speciality crops and scientific research should directly reach farmers through agricultural institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Officials said the conference highlighted sustainable agriculture and market oriented farming to improve income opportunities for farmers and strengthen the agricultural economy across eastern states in the coming years through coordinated planning and modern farming practices nationwide effectively.

Women investors drive mutual fund growth

NEW DELHI

Women investors are increasingly strengthening India's mutual fund sector with faster growth in assets under management compared to men, according to a report released by Computer Age Management Services Limited.

The report said women's share of assets under management in CAMS serviced funds increased from Rs 10 trillion to Rs 11.3 trillion in one year, recording 13 percent growth agai nst 11 percent growth among men. Women investors contributed Rs 3 trillion in gross inflows during FY26 compared to Rs 2.8 trillion in FY25.

According to the report, women accounted for 35 percent of total individual gross inflows and their participation is steadily shifting toward long term and goal based investing. The number of women investors reached 13.2 million with 2.2 million new investors added during FY26.

Officials said women now account for 29 percent of live systematic investment plans and many investors are choosing diversified portfolios focused on long term weal th creation.

Nearly 75 percent of women investors are below 50 years of age and strong growth was seen among investors under 35 years.

Equity funds remained the preferred investment category while hybrid and solution oriented schemes showed faster growth because of increasing interest in diversified and balanced investments.

The report also noted rising use of digital platforms and assisted investment channels among women investors.

India fuel price rise lowest among nations

NEW DELHI

India has recorded the lowest fuel price increase among major economies after the recent rise in petrol and diesel prices, according to data. An Indian Oil official said the increase of Rs 3.91 per litre in petrol and diesel prices amounts to only 4.4 percent and was implemented after public sector oil companies absorbed rising crude oil costs for 76 days without passing the burden to consumers.

The official said fuel price hikes in many countries have ranged between 10 percent and 90 percent because governments there allowed direct market based increases. Countries such as Pakistan, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates recorded petrol price increases of more than 50 percent compared to levels before the recent crude oil rise.

In advanced economies, fuel prices also increased sharply. Petrol prices in the United States rose by around 45 percent while diesel prices climbed 48 percent. In countries including the United Kingdom, Germany and France, fuel price increases ranged between 14 percent and 34 percent depending on taxes and market conditions.

The report stated that India's price revision reduced daily losses of public sector oil companies from around Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 750 crore. Officials said the increase only partly compensated for the rising cost of imported crude oil.

According to Indian Oil officials, India maintained stable fuel prices since February 23, 2026 despite rising global crude prices. The recent increase was introduced to reduce financial pressure on oil companies while keeping the burden on consumers lower compared to other major economies.

Experts said India's controlled price adjustment helped protect consumers from sudden inflation and ensured stability in transportation and essential commodity costs while balancing the financial health of public sector oil companies amid volatile global crude markets and increasing import expenses during the recent international energy crisis period worldwide.

Funds are divided across three projects, including Jammu-Katra safety upgrades, Howrah-Delhi corridor expansion and Chennai suburban decongestion

Railways approves Rs 2,193 cr infra projects across key corridors

NEW DELHI

Indian Railways on Tuesday approved three key infrastructure projects with a total investment of Rs 2,193 crore, aimed at expanding capacity, improving safety and easing congestion across some of the country's busiest rail corridors.

The sanctioned works include the Rs 993 crore Arakkonam-Chengalpattu line doubling project in Tamil Nadu, the Rs 962 crore Kiul-Jhajha third line project on the Howrah-Delhi route, and Rs 238 crore worth of tunnel rehabilitation and bridge protection works on the Jammu-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra section.

The approvals form part of Indian Railways' broader push to modernise core rail infrastructure, enhance operational efficiency and strengthen connectivity on high-density passenger and freight routes.

Howrah-Delhi capacity boost

Indian Railways has also approved the 54-km Kiul-Jhajha third line project at a cost of Rs 962 crore to boost capacity on the heavily utilised Howrah-Delhi corridor. The route is part of the Railways' high traffic density network and plays a vital role in passenger and freight movement between eastern and northern India.

According to the Ministry of Railways, the existing double-line section is already operating beyond ideal capacity levels, necessitating additional infrastructure to accommodate growing rail traffic.

The corridor also serves as a crucial link between Kolkata and Haldia ports and the Raxaul-Nepal route, besides handling freight traffic associated with major industrial units including Barh STPP, Jawahar STPP and Birganj ICD.

Jammu-Katra Safety Upgrade

In a separate approval, Indian Railways sanctioned Rs 238 crore for slope stabilisation, tunnel rehabilitation and bridge protection works on the Jammu-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra section under Northern Railway. The approved package includes slope protection measures, tunnel seepage treatment, bridge safety interventions and rehabilitation work at vulnerable points along the route. Vaishnaw said the interventions were finalised after a comprehe nsive review of bridges, tunnels and cuttings across the sec tion and "will strengthen the long-term safety and reliability".

Railways approves TN track project

The Ministry of Railways has approved the Arakkonam-Chengalpattu railway doubling project in Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs 993 crore to improve suburban and freight connectivity. The 68-kilometre project is part of the important Chennai suburban circular rail network linking Chennai Beach, Tambaram, Chengalpattu and Arakkonam. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the project will help reduce congestion on the busy suburban rail route and improve punctuality and operational efficiency. Officials stated that the existing double-line section is operating at high capacity and additional infrastructure is needed due to increasing traffic. The project is expected to improve movement of passengers and freight including cement, automobiles, food grains, iron and steel. Major industrial areas such as Sriperumbudur, Oragadam, Irungattukottai and Mahindra World City are expected to benefit from the development. Authorities also noted that the proposed Parandur Airport near Kancheepuram increases the importance of the route. The Railways Ministry said the project will support industrial growth and provide faster, safer and more reliable transportation services in the region.

US markets crash amid inflation, chip concerns

NEW YORK

US stock index futures declined on Tuesday as investors remained worried about inflation and continued losses in technology and semiconductor shares. Futures linked to the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.2%, while S and P 500 futures dropped 0.4% and Nasdaq futures declined 0.6%.

Chip stocks remained under pressure with NVIDIA falling 0.8% in premarket trading for the third consecutive day. Other technology companies including Micron Technology, Seagate Technology and Western Digital also recorded losses after strong gains in recent weeks.

Market analysts said investor sentiment weakened because of fears that rising oil prices and global tensions could increase inflation and force central banks to maintain tighter monetary policies. Brent crude prices fell about one percent but remained above 110 dollars per barrel amid uncertainty over tensions involving the United States and Iran.

The benchmark 10 year US Treasury yield eased slightly after reaching its highest level since February 2025 earlier this week. Analysts said higher bond yields generally pressure technology companies because their valuations depend heavily on future earnings growth.

Karnataka-NSEI join hands to empower youth

BENGALURU

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSEI) and the Higher Education Department of Government of Karnataka, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch a 'Student Skilling Programme', aimed at empowering youth with industry-relevant knowledge in the securities market and mutual funds.

The initiative aims to build financial knowledge, employability skills, and practical understanding of the securities market among students. The MoU was signed by Secretary Khushboo G Chowdhary and NSE Chief Regulatory Officer Ankit Sharma in Bengaluru.

It was held in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar, IT Minister Priyank Kharge, Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, and other officials.

Under the agreement, NSE will design and implement structured training modules across colleges in Karnataka.

The programme will include interactive sessions, case studies, simulations, and real world learning to improve student engagement. It will help students understand investing, improve employability, and explore self employment opportunities in financial sectors.

The scheme also supports entrepreneurship, enabling students to start small ventures in trading, analysis, and financial services. Officials said the partnership will strengthen Karnataka's education ecosystem and create a skilled investment ready youth workforce.

The National Stock Exchange of India will provide technical support and curriculum development for the program. Speaking on the occasion, NSE MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said financial literacy is key to empowering youth. He added that the collaboration will help create a financially aware generation capable of contributing to India's growth.

Students across Karnataka will benefit from practical exposure to market operations, investment tools, and financial planning concepts. The program is expected to support rural and urban youth equally by expanding access to industry relevant financial education. It also aims to encourage innovation, digital awareness, and entrepreneurship among young learners in the state. Authorities said more such skill development partnerships will be explored in future to strengthen higher education outcomes.

The initiative reflects a joint commitment between the government and NSE to prepare students for modern financial careers.

EXPLOSIVE GROWTH

UPI now powers 85% of payments: RBI data

NEW DELHI

Unified Payments Interface, widely known as UPI, accounted for the highest share of digital payment transactions in India during the second half of 20 25, according to a report released by the Reserve Bank of India.

The RBI report said UPI han dled 85.5 percent of total transaction volume, while NEFT and prepaid payment instruments each accounted for 3.6 percent. RTGS recorded only 0.1 percent transaction volume becau se it is mainly used for

high value transfers. In terms of transa ction value, RTGS dominated with 68.6 percent share, followed by NEFT at 14.9 percent and UPI at 9.5 per cent. The report explained that RTGS is mainly used for large value settlements while UPI is driving retail digital payments across the country. The RBI noted that India's digital payments system has ex panded rapidly over the past decade. Between 2016 and 2025, transaction volume increased 33 tim es while transaction value nearly tripled. In the last five years alone, digital payment volumes grew more than four times and values nea rly doubled. Officials said the strong growth was supported by rising smartphone usage, wider internet access and public trust in se cure cashless payment systems. The report highlighted that NEFT remains im portant because it supports both small and large transactions with quick settlement ser vices. The RBI report also stated that payment transactions increased from 6,437 crore in 2021 to 26,819 crore in 2025. During the same period, transaction value rose from Rs 1,741 lakh crore to Rs 3,215 la kh crore, showing rapid growth in India's digital economy and stren gthening the country's posit ion as one of the world's fastest growing digital payment markets with increasing adoption across urban and rural regions nationwide significantly.

'The state is becoming a major mining hub because of scientific mining methods, transparent policies and investor friendly governance'

'Raj emerges major hub for critical minerals'

JAIPUR

Union Mines and Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said Rajasthan has the potential to meet the country's growing demand for critical minerals needed in defence, energy, agriculture, solar power and automobile industries.

Speaking at a review meeting of the Department of Mines and Coal held at the Chief Minister's residence in Jaipur on Tuesday, he said the state is becoming a major mining hub because of scientific mining methods, transparent policies and investor friendly governance. Reddy said recent reforms introduced by the Central Government have improved ease of doing business and increased exploration, auction and production activities in the mining sector. He stressed the need for better coordination between the Centre and the State to solve mining related issues quickly and encourage investment. Discussions during the meeting focused on solar energy projects, critical mineral block auctions, geological surveys, environmental clearances and faster operational work in mining areas. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma said Rajasthan is among the country's richest mineral states with 82 types of minerals, including 57 already under mining operations.

Ashwin: Captaincy burden affecting Gaikwad's batting

Ravichandran Ashwin believes the heavy burden of captaincy has negatively impacted Ruturaj Gaikwad's batting performance during CSK's transition phase

NEW DELHI

Senior Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin believes the heavy weight of leadership has begun to negatively impact Ruturaj Gaikwad's batting performance. The observation comes as the Chennai Super Kings face a turbulent transition phase following the departure of legendary captain MS Dhoni.

After CSK's recent five-wicket defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad at Chepauk, Ashwin emphasized that rebuilding a legendary franchise takes time and patience. He noted that the immensely high standards and expectations associated with CSK's legacy create a high-pressure environment, which is visibly weighing on the young skipper. Ashwin stated that carrying the dual burden of tactical captaincy and being the primary run-scorer in a demanding format like T20 cricket is clearly taking a toll on Gaikwad's natural flow.

The critique followed a crucial match where Gaikwad struggled to find his groove, crawling to just 15 runs before being dismissed by SRH skipper Pat Cummins. Despite decent knocks from Sanju Samson and Dewald Brevis, CSK was restricted to 180/7. Cummins spearheaded the bowling attack with impressive figures of 3/28, cross-road-marking his 200th career T20 wicket.

In response, Sunrisers Hyderabad comfortably chased down the 181-run target with an over to spare, thanks to a brilliant 70-run knock from Ishan Kishan and an aggressive 47 from Heinrich Klaasen. With this victory, SRH secured their spot in the IPL 2026 playoffs, joining the Gujarat Titans and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the next round, while leaving a transitioning Chennai squad to recalibrate their strategy.

VARUN AARON PRAISES YOUNG SRH BOWLERS

NEW DELHI

Sunrisers Hyderabad bowling coach Varun Aaron has highly praised uncapped pacers Praful Hinge and Sakib Husain after the franchise sealed its IPL 2026 playoff spot with a clinical five-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk.

Speaking in a post-match review, Aaron credited the young bowling duo's rapid rise to their tireless work ethic and international ambitions. He revealed that SRH's coaching staff had initiated a specialized training program with both bowlers two months prior to the season's start, focusing heavily on situational awareness and variation control. Aaron emphasized that their eagerness to absorb advice and execute under pressure has been a defining factor in the team's bowling blueprint this year.

SRH bowling coach Varun Aaron praised pacers Praful Hinge and Sakib Husain, alongside finisher Heinrich Klaasen, after securing their IPL 2026 playoff spot

The preparatory work paid off handsomely during the high-stakes match against Chennai. Sakib gave SRH a major breakthrough by removing the dangerous Urvil Patel, and both youngsters finished with two crucial wickets apiece to restrict CSK to a manageable 180/7 on a batting-friendly surface.

Beyond the bowling department, Aaron also lauded middle-order mainstay Heinrich Klaasen for solving the team's historic finishing woes. Chasing 181, Klaasen played an aggressive, momentum-shifting knock of 47 runs, providing lethal support to opener Ishan Kishan's steady 70-run anchor. Aaron noted that Klaasen's rare ability to seamlessly shift gears and manipulate spin bowling off the back foot makes him one of the most dangerous assets in the tournament.

Injuries rule out De Kock & Raj Bawa

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Indians' difficult Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 campaign has taken another serious hit, with the franchise announcing that senior South African opener Quinton de Kock and promising all-rounder Raj Angad Bawa have been ruled out for the remainder of the season due to injuries.

In an official statement, the franchise revealed that De Kock is sidelined with a tendon injury in his left wrist. The South African star sustained the injury just before Mumbai's home clash against the Sunrisers Hyderabad back on April 29 and has failed to recover in time for the final stretch of the tournament.

Meanwhile, young batting all-rounder Raj Bawa suffered a ligament tear to his right thumb during Mumbai's recent high-stakes encounter against the Punjab Kings on May 14. Due to the severity of the tear, he has been officially pulled from the squad. The MI management confirmed that both players have departed the team camp and will continue their rehabilitation programs at their respective homes under the remote supervision and guidance of the Mumbai Indians' medical network.

The double injury blow adds to what has already been a highly disappointing season for the five-time champions. Under the captaincy of Hardik Pandya, the Mumbai Indians have already been mathematically eliminated from the IPL 2026 playoffs race.

Mark Boucher pays emotional tribute to Ms Dhoni

NEW DELHI

Former South African wicketkeeper-batter Mark Boucher has delivered a heartfelt tribute to MS Dhoni, calling the legendary former India captain a global icon who changed the sport of cricket forever. Boucher's emotional remarks came on the heels of Chennai Super Kings' five-wicket defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad at Chepauk.

Speaking on the post-match broadcast, Boucher reflected on Dhoni's unparalleled aura and the unmatched adoration he commands, particularly at CSK's home ground. He noted that even back in South Africa, whenever people express a desire to experience the magic of the IPL, he explicitly instructs them to travel to Chepauk just to witness the fans go completely crazy for Dhoni. Boucher described Dhoni's global contributions to the game as "astronomical" and lauded his supreme tactical mind.

Looking toward the future, Boucher expressed hope that the veteran would remain deeply embedded in the sport even after his playing days are completely over, suggesting a seamless transition into an executive role like Director of Cricket for CSK. He concluded his tribute with a message of gratitude from the wider cricketing fraternity, thanking Dhoni for being an absolute superstar and an incredible ambassador for the game.

The emotional tribute capped off a high-stakes match where Sunrisers Hyderabad chased down a target of 181 with 19 balls to spare, riding on a masterful 70 not out from Ishan Kishan and a blistering 47 from Heinrich Klaasen. Earlier, Dewald Brevis top-scored for CSK with 44, while SRH captain Pat Cummins led from the front with figures of 3/28 to claim his 200th career T20 wicket. With the emphatic win, Hyderabad logged 16 points from 13 matches, punch-marking their ticket to the IPL 2026 playoffs alongside Gujarat Titans and Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Franklin applauds Kishan's 'mature' match winning knock

CHENNAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad assistant coach James Franklin heavily praised opener Ishan Kishan, labeling his brilliant 70-run knock against Chennai Super Kings as his finest and most mature performance of the IPL 2026 season.

Speaking to the media after SRH's commanding five-wicket victory at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Franklin highlighted that the knock was particularly impressive given the sluggish nature of the Chepauk track. While modern T20 cricket has become accustomed to incredibly flat, boundary-friendly surfaces, Franklin noted that this specific chase demanded true batting grit and tactical grafting. Kishan anchored the innings perfectly, reading the match situation flawlessly after the early departure of Travis Head, and successfully carried the team deep into the chase.

Kishan's steady 70 off 47 balls was beautifully complemented by an explosive middle-order assault from Heinrich Klaasen, who smashed 47 off just 26 deliveries. The duo put together a devastating 75-run partnership off a mere 41 balls, completely breaking the back of CSK's bowling attack. Franklin lauded Klaasen as well, calling his consistent ability to dictate game tempo and manipulate field placements one of the greatest middle-order campaigns seen in recent IPL history.

Aravindh becomes first Indian to reach EWC

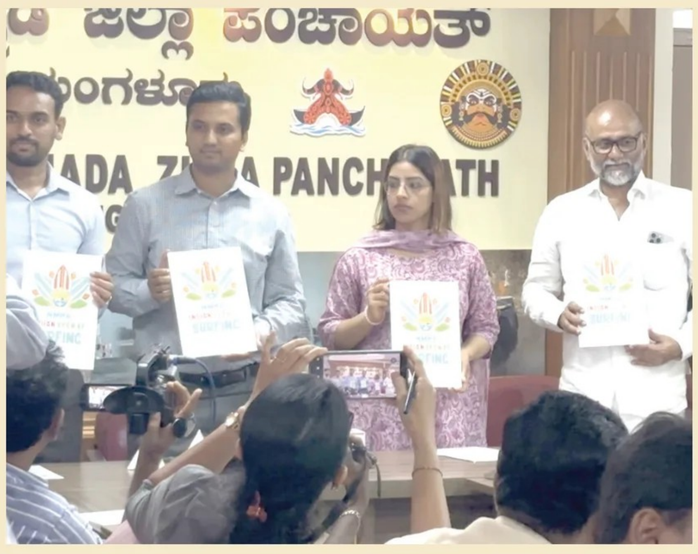
MUMBAI

Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram has made history. The twenty-six-year-old chess prodigy became the first Indian player to qualify for the chess main event at the prestigious Esports World Cup (EWC) 2026. Representing the famous esports organization S8UL, Aravindh secured his spot after winning a thrilling qualifier tournament at DreamHack Atlanta. The competition used a fast-paced format of ten-minute games with no extra time per move. Aravindh showed incredible mental strength throughout the playoffs. In the final match against strong rival Alexey Sarana, the pressure was immense. After losing the opening two games, Aravindh made a spectacular comeback to win the ultimate sudden-death tiebreaker. Along with qualification, he won fourteen lakh rupees in prize money.

The main chess event takes place this August with a massive fourteen crore rupee prize pool. This victory marks S8UL's third confirmed game at the World Cup, having already qualified in Fortnite and Honor of Kings.

TOP INDIAN SURFERS HEAD TO MANGALURU COAST

MANGALURU



India's best wave riders are getting ready for a massive splash. The Surfing Federation of India has officially announced the seventh edition of the Indian Open of Surfing 2026. This highly anticipated national championship will take place from May 29 to May 31 at the beautiful Blue Bay Tannirbhavi Eco Beach in Mangaluru.

This year's event holds historic importance as surfing prepares to make its grand debut at the upcoming Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. The three-day competition serves as a crucial platform for athletes to secure their spots on the national team. Indian surfing has seen rapid growth recently, with local athletes scoring impressive medals at the Asian Championships and locking in historic qualification quotas.

Organized by the Surfing Swami Foundation and Mantra Surf Club, the tournament enjoys strong support from the Karnataka government. Local officials noted that the event beautifully showcases the region's stunning coastline while boosting beach tourism and nurturing young talent.

As the second major stop on the National Championship Series, following April's tournament in Little Andaman, the Mangaluru event will spark an intense rivalry between the east and west coast surfers. Crucial ranking points are up for grabs, which will decide the final national standings at the end of the season. Organizers emphasize that these high-stakes domestic events are vital for building a competitive ecosystem. Fans can expect thrilling action as India's finest surfing talents battle the ocean waves for ultimate glory.

INDIAN TENNIS LEGEND PRAISES GROWING PREMIER LEAGUE

MUMBAI

Indian tennis icon Rohan Bopanna has praised the rapid rise of the Tennis Premier League (TPL). He highlighted its massive success in inspiring young athletes and spreading the love for tennis across the country.

Speaking about the league's impact, Bopanna noted that hosting matches in various cities has attracted massive crowds. This gives local athletes a fantastic chance to shine alongside top global stars. Having played in both Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Bopanna expressed his joy at seeing the tournament evolve so beautifully over the seasons.

The tennis star emphasized that bringing in major brands is crucial for the league's future. Strong financial support will draw more international talent to compete on Indian soil. Expanding into new regions will make the tournament even more successful.

Founded by Kunal Thakkur and Mrunal Jain, the TPL features eight franchise teams using an exciting, fast-paced 25-point system. It aims to discover grassroots talent while giving Indian tennis global spotlight.

The excitement peaked last season when the GS Delhi Aces captured their first-ever title. The Delhi team showed incredible teamwork during the finals. In mixed doubles,

Sofia Costoulas and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan dominated their match with a 16-9 win. Later, despite international star Damir Dzumhur winning his singles match for the opposing side, Delhi maintained a solid lead. Billy Harris and Nedunchezhiyan then sealed the ultimate victory in the men's doubles, wrapping up a grand 51-36 triumph. The league clearly promises an even brighter future for Indian tennis.

Rohit and Kohli return to squads

GUWAHATI

Cricket fans have reason to celebrate as legendary batsmen Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli return to the national team. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officially announced the squads for an upcoming multi-format series against Afghanistan, starting next month.

The tour kicks off with a single Test match beginning June 6, followed by three exciting One-Day Internationals (ODIs) from June 14 to June 20. In a major leadership shift, young batting sensation Shubman Gill will captain the Indian team for both the Test and ODI matches. Reliable batsman KL Rahul takes over as vice-captain for the Test side, while Shreyas Iyer will serve as the deputy leader for the 50-over games.

The national selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, introduced several fresh faces alongside the returning veterans. Dynamic players Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, and Harsh Dubey earned their maiden ODI call-ups.

However, the inclusion of veteran stars Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya still depends on passing their final fitness tests.

Meanwhile, seasoned bowling champions Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja have been rested for this short home series.

For the red-ball Test, India's batting looks incredibly strong with rising stars like Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan joining Gill at the top. The spin attack will rely heavily on Kuldeep Yadav, while Mohammed Siraj spearheads the fast bowling unit.

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